

STARS AND STRIPES®

Bettany hopes to win with 'Wimbledon'

Page 21

Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany



LeAnn Rimes cancels Vilseck concert

Page 4



Navy sheds reputation as a pushover

Back page

Navy's Aaron Polanco

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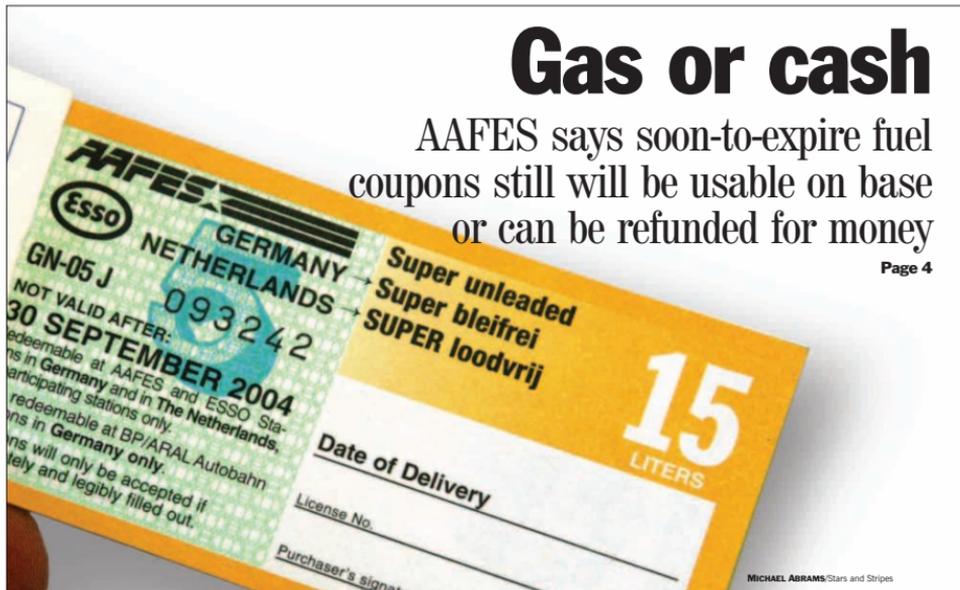
DOD deploying 1,100 GIs to Afghanistan

Troops will assist with election security, report says Page 5

Gas or cash

AAFES says soon-to-expire fuel coupons still will be usable on base or can be refunded for money

Page 4



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Scene on Sunday

Bernie Mac a hit
in baseball flick

Scene on Sunday

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
American Roundup.....	18-19
Classified.....	25-26
Comics.....	22-24
Crossword.....	23
Faces.....	21
Horoscope.....	22
Letters.....	14
Opinion.....	15
Sports.....	27-36
TV listings.....	20
Weather.....	17
Your Money.....	16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Airport screening: A new device that scans documents for traces of explosives has made its debut at four of the busiest U.S. airports, where officials will use it to screen selected passengers. Federal security screeners started testing the equipment Wednesday at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

It is also being to detect chemical residue on the surface of items such as wallets, passports and airline boarding passes.

Dozens of chemicals could trigger the scanners, including nitroglycerin taken by heart patients, fertilizer and gunpowder residue.

Peterson trial: Scott Peterson altered his appearance and loaded his car with cash in the days before he was charged with murdering his pregnant wife, an agent with the state Department of Justice testified.

Special Agent Alex Quick, who tailed Peterson just before his arrest on April 18, 2003, a few days after the bodies of his wife and her fetus were found, testified Wednesday at Peterson's double-murder trial.

Quick, one of up to 10 agents who followed Peterson, told jurors that the former fertilizer salesman had altered his appearance, bleaching his dark hair and eyebrows blonde and growing a thick goatee.

Cuba sanctions: A day after moving to nullify the Bush administration's new rules restricting family travel to Cuba, the House on Wednesday voted to remove barriers to agriculture sales and student exchanges in the island nation.

But, as in past years, actions by both the House and Senate to ease decades of economic and social sanctions imposed on Cuba are expected to make little headway against an administration determined not to make life easier for the Fidel Castro government.

The White House has threatened to veto a \$90 billion Transportation and Treasury Department spending bill if it contains any language to weaken sanctions. The bill, for fiscal 2005 programs, passed 397-12.

'Bonnie and Clyde' trial: The sentencing for a woman who teamed up with her boyfriend in a string of "Bonnie and Clyde" bank robberies was postponed Wednesday after her attorney challenged federal sentencing guidelines.

Nova Guthrie, 31, pleaded guilty last year to three robberies. A plea agreement called for a sentence of nine to 11 years, taking into account additional crimes she was accused of carrying out but did not actually plead guilty to.

Guthrie's attorney Daniel Smith said the sentence was too long, citing a June ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that said state judges cannot impose a longer sentence for offenses that were not proved in court or admitted to by the defendant.

Rosa Parks suit on OutKast song: Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, 91, has dementia and should not be forced to answer questions in her lawsuit over a rap song named for her, her lawyers said in a court filing.

Her lawyers said this summer she has been



International space station: From left, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Shargin and Salizhan Sharipov and American astronaut Leroy Chiao smile before the start of their training session at the mock-up of a Soyuz TMA space craft outside Moscow on Tuesday. The tenth crew slated to travel to the international space station in October entered the final stages of training, undergoing tests in a scale model of the orbiting station. The crew will conduct experiments to research new AIDS vaccines and plant growth, and work on new space vehicles that will help future missions to the moon and Mars.

in frail health, but Monday's court filing is the first public description of her health problems.

Parks' lawsuit says the 1998 song "Rosa Parks" by hip-hop group OutKast violated her publicity and trademark rights and defamed her. It also says OutKast and record company BMG exploited her name for commercial purposes. OutKast has been dismissed as a defendant.

Louisiana serial killer: A mental health expert has found Louisiana serial killer suspects Derrick Todd Lee to be mentally retarded, a lawyer said Tuesday in a new twist that could be used to try to spare Lee a possible death penalty.

Public defender Mike Mitchell made the announcement as jury selection continued for Lee's first-degree murder trial in the beating and stabbing death of 22-year-old Charlotte Murray Pace.

World

Germany library fire: A fire that hit a historic German library earlier this month destroyed twice as many books as previously thought, with some 50,000 works suffering irreparable fire damage, officials said Tuesday.

The Sept. 2 fire at Weimar's Duchess Anna Amalia Library tore through the roof and top floor of the 16th-century rococo palace housing the library, destroying classic books from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries in the city where the nation's most revered writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, spent much of his life.

The books lost in the fire will be listed in an online database to be made available to the public, library director Michael Knoche said.

Charges against Mexican pop star: Minutes after Mexican pop idol Gloria Trevi was

cleared of rape and kidnapping charges and freed from prison, she broke into song and announced she was releasing a new record.

But it may be months before Trevi returns to show business. Prosecutors on Wednesday were considering whether to appeal her acquittal in the border state of Chihuahua and she still faces criminal complaints in Mexico City.

Prosecutors accused the 36-year-old pop star, two of her backup singers and her manager, Sergio Andrade, of luring young girls into their entourage and then sexually abusing them.

Hunting down war criminals: The British diplomat overseeing the peace process in Bosnia met Thursday with the newly appointed Bosnian Serb interior minister, who faces pressure to remove the biggest obstacle on the country's path toward European integration by apprehending war-crimes suspects at large for almost a decade.

Interior Minister Darko Matijasevic began his job last week after his predecessor was fired in June by Paddy Ashdown, the high representative of the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as part of a purge of local officials suspected of supporting war criminals.

Gaza Strip unrest: Three Palestinian gunmen infiltrated a fog-shrouded Israeli army post at dawn Thursday, killing three Israeli soldiers in a fierce gunbattle before they were shot to death, the army said.

Hours later, the Israeli army blew up an abandoned house near a Gaza Strip settlement, sending large plumes of smoke in the air.

The attack comes as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faces mounting opposition to his plan to withdraw from all Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements by September 2005.

Stories and photos from wire services

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PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from Southern Europe Task Force's 173rd Airborne Brigade interact with role players in Afghan garb Wednesday at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The 173rd Airborne soldiers were gearing up for a mission rehearsal exercise for their deployment to Afghanistan next spring.

SETAF readies for deployment through role-playing exercises

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — The Southern European Task Force's 173rd Airborne Brigade and supporting units are practicing at the Combat Maneuver Training Center for an Afghanistan deployment next spring.

About 2,000 soldiers have been honing peacekeeping and urban combat skills at the center since Sept. 16. From Oct. 1-10, the soldiers will conduct a mission rehearsal exercise.

The exercise portion allows the soldiers to put all the skills they practice over the first two weeks into play in scenarios with more than 300 role-players from the training area dressed in traditional Afghanisthan clothing.

It incorporates scenarios modeled after events that were happening in Afghanistan right up until the training began.

Observer-controllers from the training area deployed to Afghanistan to bring back information on what has been happening with U.S. servicemen there, said Lt. Col. Darin Blancett, deputy operations officer for CMCU Command Group.

Primarily, the soldiers will practice working with role-playing tribal leaders and residents of mock villages in the training area.

However, the training area also boasts four new manmade caves for soldiers to practice cave-clearing skills they may need in Afghanistan.

Other scenarios the soldiers might encounter include reacting to makeshift bombs.

"We're anticipating everything [during the exercise] from tribal leader ethnic disputes to terrorist attacks," said Maj. Bill Butler, executive officer for the 173rd Airborne.

“We're anticipating everything [during the exercise] from tribal leader ethnic disputes to terrorist attacks.”

Maj. Bill Butler
Executive officer
173rd Airborne

Butler said the training is vital for the brigade, which has new leaders in its personnel, security, operations and logistics sections.

The brigade's soldiers, such as Pfc. Valerie Saenz, say the train-

ing is helpful. The Afghanistan deployment will be her first.

"It's extensive, we have long days of training," Saenz said. "I am starting to feel more prepared because of the training."

Other soldiers benefit from feedback from those who were on the brigade's Operation Iraqi Freedom I deployment.

"Everything we are doing here is close to what we will be doing downrange," said Spc. William Hankins, also on the 173rd Airborne. "People on the previous deployment have been giving us an idea of what the tempo will be like."

Although the 173rd Airborne soldiers have had little rest between the deployments, Butler said morale is good.

"The morale within the brigade is fine," he said. "This is about being a nation at war fighting the war on terror. The soldiers expect to deploy."

"This is why most of us joined the Army, to fight for American principles."

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Role-players at the Combat Maneuver Training Center conduct their afternoon prayers at a mosque in the mock village of Deh Rawod.

Antt offers to cancel speech in wake of boycott

German military pulled out of Land Combat Expo after critical column

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — A controversial author invited to speak at the Army's annual professional development symposium in Europe next week has offered to cancel his appearance in the wake of a German boycott of the event.

Ralph Peters, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, a writer and frequent lecturer on military affairs, is slated to speak at U.S. Army Europe's three-day Land Combat Expo on the future of warfare.

"I have made an offer to withdraw if that's what USAREUR thinks is best. And there will be no hard feelings against USAREUR on my part," Peters told Stars and Stripes on Thursday.

"The important thing is the expo," he added. "It's not me, it's not the German tanks. It's the troops."

A USAREUR spokesman confirmed Peters' offer. "USAREUR's invitation to him to participate as a guest speaker at the expo still stands," said Lt. Col. Hans Kring.

Officials, however, say they hope the Germans will reconsider. "We continue to discuss the issue with the German command," said Crichton.

German officials say they were unaware of Peters' offer.

"Our commander doesn't know anything about this," said Col. Wolfgang Feit, spokesman for Lt. Gen. Axel Bürgener, command of Germany's land forces.

Feit declined to speculate on whether German leaders would reconsider their decision to boycott the expo should Peters withdraw.

Peters infuriated German officials with a scathing column in the New York Post last month that was critical of the German government, German civilian employees who work for the U.S. military and wide swaths of Germany society.

"The primary reason why German politicians want American troops to remain is that they've been fleecing us for a half century. Some flunky from the German Embassy may respond with bogus claims about how our presence is subsidized, but the truth is that American tax dollars go to lazy, arrogant, corrupt German employees who work on our bases and over whom we have little control," wrote Peters. "The Germans aren't worried about global security. They're worried



Army Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ralph Peters

about their dismal unemployment numbers."

Peters served in Germany for 10 years while on active duty.

"I saw up close how German farmers filed outrageous claims for 'maneuver damage,' how German landlords rented substandard housing to our military families at inflated rates, then exploited the system to renovate slums our soldiers had ruined," Peters continued in his column. "Even the German railroads gouged us whenever we had to deploy. It's time for America to stop subsidizing the welfare state on the Rhine."

The German authorities responded on Tuesday, telling U.S. Army leaders in Europe that their military would boycott the expo and cancel their participation in the event, which included some five military vehicles and displays.

"We do not want any verbal confrontation between any German soldier and this guest speaker," Col. Hans Kring, liaison officer between the German and USAREUR said Wednesday, adding "We do not want to provide a platform for the speaker to do this in the presence of German soldiers."

Peters said the move amounts to a "German effort to pressure USAREUR into canceling my appearance; it's a thinly disguised effort at censorship. Still, I want to do what's right for the expo and the troops."

Despite the uproar, however, Peters makes no apologies for the column.

"This just proves they still have a deep fascist streak," Peters said. "It's really a shame that none of my books are in print in Germany, because then they could burn them like they did in the 1930s."

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AAFES fuel coupons about to expire can still be used

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — The current Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel coupons expire at the end of the month, but that does not mean they are useless.

The discount coupons, which are purchased in advance and can be used at AAFES gas stations and at certain stations in Germany and the Netherlands, can either be exchanged for cash or used at AAFES stations for several more months.

According to Ruth Wagner, retail program specialist for AAFES Europe, the expired coupons can be used at all AAFES pumps until the end of April — although they will not be accepted after Sept. 30 at Esso and certain Aral and BP stations that normally take them.

Customers who prefer a refund can turn in any unused coupons still attached to the booklet for cash until next September. Wagner said single, unattached coupons will not be refunded.

Returned coupons will be bought back by AAFES for the same price they were purchased, Wagner said. The date of purchase, stamped on the book's cover, will determine the price.

If the old coupons cost more than the current cost for a similar number of liters, customers "will get a little extra money back. If not, they'll have to spend a little more for a new booklet," Wagner said. "Coupons are not given back on a one-for-one basis."

On Sept. 5, AAFES stopped selling the coupon books that expire Sept. 30 and are now selling new books.

Maj. David Accetta, chief spokesman for AAFES Europe, said that while there may have originally been spot shortages, the coupons should now be available at all AAFES locations.

Accetta also said drivers stopping at gas stations on the economy should always make sure the coupons will be accepted before filling up.

"That's especially true in the Netherlands, where not all Esso stations take coupons," he said.

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Rimes concert in Vilseck canceled

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

Sept. 18.

That performance was to continue with an abbreviated, 30-minute performance, according to Sohre.



Rimes

Rimes was scheduled to meet with soldiers and sign autographs for soldiers and families before and after the concert Friday in Vilseck.

"She sends her regrets and best wishes, but she cannot perform [the Vilseck concert]," Sohre said.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.estripes.osd.mil

The free LeAnn Rimes concert scheduled for Friday in Vilseck, Germany, has been canceled because she is ill.

"She is at the very end of a long commercial tour," according to Jim Sohre, Installation Management Agency-Europe entertainment director.

"She sought medical attention in England, and [doctors] recommended that she not perform."

The concert had been the scheduled second stop on a visit to U.S. military bases in Germany. She also was to perform at Ramstein Air Base on Thursday in conjunction with the Air Force's 57th birthday, which was

Immediate Response '04: Out in the fields and up in the sky



ADRIAN SCHULTE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Spc. David Van Hook, left, and Staff Sgt. Hilario Velasquez from Company B, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (Airborne) stay low as a Polish Mi-8 Hip helicopter lifts off Wednesday during the Immediate Response '04 exercise in Poland.

Airman dies in motocross accident

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron airman died from injuries suffered in a motocross accident Sept. 21 in Billings, Mont., according to an Air Force news release.

Staff Sgt. Zackary Smith, an equipment mechanic from Miles City, Mont., was competing in a motocross race when the accident took place.

Smith had been assigned to the 48th EMS since April 2002. He was on terminal leave at the time of the accident. "He was a result-oriented troop who did whatever he could to get the job done," Senior Master Sgt. James Lee, 48th EMS first sergeant, stated in the release.

A memorial service will be at the base chapel on Monday.

Cocaine ring conviction

VICENZA, Italy — A soldier assigned to the 74th Long Range Surveillance Detachment was found guilty of cocaine use and distribution in a court-martial earlier this month.

Spc. Christopher J. Rossi pleaded guilty to two specifications of cocaine use. He pleaded not guilty to distribution of the drug, but was found guilty during the trial.

He also was convicted of making a false statement to investigators. Rossi was sentenced to forfeiture of

two-thirds pay for a year, reduction in rank to E-1 and given a bad-conduct discharge.

He was also sentenced to a year in prison, but that was reduced to six months under a pretrial agreement.

Airman acquitted of drug charges

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — An airman assigned to the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was found not guilty on drug charges in a court-martial last week.

Senior Airman Damaine M. Brown was charged with wrongful use of marijuana. Prosecutors said he failed a urinalysis test in October 2003. But Brown entered a not guilty plea and jurors agreed with him.

From staff reports

U.S. to deploy 1,100 troops to Afghanistan

Members of 82nd Airborne begin to arrive for election security

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is sending up to 1,100 soldiers to Afghanistan to assist in security before the Oct. 9 presidential election there, according to a report in Thursday's USA Today.

The deployment is in response to growing violence as the election nears, the report states. More than 900 people have died in political violence across Afghanistan this year.

The troops from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division began arriving in Afghanistan on Wednesday, The Associated Press reported. This brings the number of U.S. troops in that country to more than 18,000.

Maj. Amy Hannah, a spokesperson for the 82nd Airborne, told USA Today that troops have begun leaving Fort Bragg,

N.C., for Afghanistan, and "there is no specific time period" for their deployment.

The British are reportedly considering sending up to 8,000 soldiers to Afghanistan. However, this would be offset by the withdrawal of an equal contingent from Iraq. British soldiers in Afghanistan number only a few hundred among the NATO-led international security force.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai had requested 5,300 NATO troops to help provide security in the run-up to the vote, USA Today reported. But, only 1,800 have been promised, and most have not yet arrived. They will augment the 6,500 NATO forces now in Kabul and some nearby villages.

Before the deployment of the 82nd Airborne troops, there were about 17,900 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, backed by Army

and Marine helicopter gunships and Air Force B-1 and A-10 aircraft. At least 97 U.S. troops have been killed and about 360 have been wounded.

U.S. troops killed three militants in fighting in southern Afghanistan, while a rocket attack on the main American base north of the capital wounded a U.S. soldier, officials said Thursday.

Two suspected Taliban died in a gunbatle with American forces late Wednesday in Uruguzan province, a hot spot for U.S. troops battling Taliban militants, the local mayor said.

Shooting broke out near a village called Poshakan after the two men refused to stop their motorbike when asked by U.S. forces, said Mayor Haji Obaidullah.

He identified one of the men as local Taliban commander Mullah Dur Mohammad.

Obaidullah said Afghan forces arrested another Taliban commander, Mullah Usman, during a search operation on Tuesday in nearby Kalatak village.

The fighting came on the heels of a series of incidents Monday that left three U.S. soldiers dead and 14 wounded, underlining Afghanistan's fragile security less than three weeks before national elections, which Taliban rebels have vowed to disrupt.

The Department of Defense identified the dead as Spc. Wesley R. Wells, 21, of Libertyville, Ill., Staff Sgt. Robert S. Goodwin, 35, of Albany, Ga., and Staff Sgt. Tony B. Olaus, 30, of Wallaha, S.C.

In another incident on Wednesday, three rockets were fired at Bagram Air Base, the hub of U.S. military operations.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Rumsfeld to outline plans in 'global defense posture'

By ROBERT BRUNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Over the next decade, the U.S. military will abandon 35 percent of the Cold War-era bases and buildings it uses abroad, even as it seeks to expand a network of base-bone sites in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe to help fight terrorism.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was outlining the plan Thursday to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In a report to Congress, the Pentagon offered details of the "global defense posture." The planned changes, once completed, will result in "the most profound re-ordering" of U.S. military forces overseas since the current global arrangements were set 50 years ago, according to the report.

The most widely noted aspect of the plan, which was announced in broad terms last month by President Bush, is the withdrawal of 70,000 U.S. troops and 100,000 of their family members from bases in Germany and South Korea. That has gained attention in part because it means fewer U.S. bases probably will be shuttered in the 2005 round of base closings than if there were no withdrawal.

Less well understood is that even as the troops will return to the United States from Germany and South Korea, the Pentagon will be building up its network of "forward operating sites," sometimes called "hij pad" bases.

The Pentagon is seeking maximum flexibility in the decades ahead in responding to terrorism and other potential threats, including those to oil supplies. So the military wants a range of basing and access agreements with as many countries as possible and in as many regions as it can.

It foresees three types of overseas arrangements:

family support structures. Examples include Ramstein Air Base in Germany, Camp Humphreys in South Korea and Kadema Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

Forward operating sites maintained by a limited number of military personnel and possibly stored equipment. These sites will support rotational rather than permanently stationed forces. Examples are Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras and Thumrait and Masirah Island air bases in Oman.

Even more austere sites, which the Pentagon calls "cooperative security locations." With little or no permanent U.S. presence, these may be maintained by contractor or host nation personnel.

They will allow access for U.S. forces in special circumstances and be a focal point for regional cooperation. An example is the air base in Dakar, Senegal, and Entebbe airport in Uganda.

■ The Pentagon is considering adding:

■ The tiny island nation of Sao Tome and Principe, off the coast of West Africa. It is among the places Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, has mentioned as a potential U.S. forward operating site, but not a base. Sao Tome holds a strategic position in the Gulf of Guinea from which the U.S. military could monitor the movement of oil tankers and protect oil pipelines.

■ In Bulgaria, which joined the U.S.-led NATO alliance this year, the Sarafovo and Graf Ignatievo air fields could serve as bases for U.S. troops to deploy on rotational training tours.

■ In Romania, the Americans have shown interest in the Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, the Bading training range and the Black Sea military port of Mangalia.

■ In Australia, where Pentagon officials say they have no plans for permanent bases, U.S. forces likely will conduct joint training with Australian forces.



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Chief Petty Officer Angel Rivera hugs another chief after a pinning ceremony Wednesday at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The ceremony for 13 sailors lapped for the chief petty officer rank had been postponed as the result of "inappropriate actions" at a Sept. 9 initiation function on base.

New chiefs get pinned in Rota, Spain

By SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — There were days when Chief Petty Officer Angel Rivera, 39, wasn't sure he would reach his goal of becoming a Navy chief.

Although it took longer than usual, he reached the career benchmark on Wednesday. "It took 20 years, but I finally made it," said Rivera, a master-at-arms chief with base security.

The Navy pinned 13 of its newest chiefs during a ceremony in the base theater. Getting promoted from first-class petty officer is considered more than a boost in pay rate. Enlisted sailors selected to chief are part of an exclusive fellowship that comes with much more responsibility.

Wednesday's ceremony was emotional for many of the new chiefs. Some had family members or friends pin the chief anchor on their uniform.

"This is what everybody strives for when they come into the military enlisted," Chief Petty Officer Ricky Netzel said. "They dream of the day they put the khakis on, and this is my day."

The new chiefs in Rota waited longer than most sailors for the big day. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Sept. 15, but an investigation into inappropriate conduct during a skill performed at a chief "transition" function postponed it.

A "phallic-shaped device" was displayed during one of the skits, prompting complaints from those in the audience. Capt. John Orem, commander of U.S. forces at Rota, took nonpunitive administrative action against those involved with the skit because he considered it inappropriate. The Sept. 9 event on base was attended by 40 to 50 chief petty officers from various base commands.

Chief Petty Officer Keith Rawls, who is assigned to the base hospital, said the attention

put on the investigation and what happened during the skit is a reminder that being in the Navy carries a tremendous amount of responsibility.

"The attention that's been placed upon this ... I hope some thing good comes out of it," he said.

Chief petty officers go through a "transition" period, once known as initiation, before they are pinned. It begins when chiefs are named at the end of July until the day of the ceremony.

The period aims to mold first-class petty officers into better leaders. Hours before the pinning ceremony, new and current chiefs in Rota participated in several events to help them be better supervisors and mentors.

"Whether they stay in the Navy or get out and go to corporate America or [Naval Reserve], they now have tools that they can use for the rest of their lives," said Master Chief Petty Officer James Stone, a Navy leadership trainer.

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AP photos

Above: Supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr seek watch for U.S. soldiers Wednesday in the Sadr City section of Baghdad. **Left:** U.S. soldiers take cover in a building after their Bradley fighting vehicle was disabled by a roadside bomb during a major incursion into Sadr City on Wednesday.

Cleric: Violence must not derail election

U.S. won't give in to Iraq militant demands; Baghdad fighting continues

BY KIM HOUSEGO
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, said that increasing violence must not be used as a pretext for delaying elections scheduled for late January.

Meanwhile, authorities insisted on Thursday that they won't give in to militants' demands to free female Iraqi prisoners despite the plea of a tearful British hostage begging Britain to save his life in a video released by his captors.

Al-Sistani "stresses the necessity of holding elections on time and the necessity of preparing the atmosphere... under international supervision to be credible and transparent," Hamed al-Khafaf, an aide to the ayatollah, said Thursday in a telephone interview from Beirut.

Iraq's Shiite majority is eager to hold elections since they expect to dominate whatever government emerges. U.N. chief Kofi Annan, however, has questioned whether elections can take place if violence does not ease.

A top U.S. general said Pentagon officials were not ruling out that more U.S. troops will be needed to secure January's elections.

"I think we will need more troops than we currently have," Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. troops in the region, said Wednesday. But, he said, Pentagon officials believe the need will be filled by Iraqis or international forces.

When asked about Abizaid's comment, President Bush said Abizaid was in his office Thursday morning and did not mention the need for more troops. "But if he were to say that, I'd listen to him," Bush said.

Violence has intensified in recent weeks — with insurgents setting off near-daily car bombs. For a second day, U.S. forces battled Shiite militiamen in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City, with U.S. warplanes firing on insurgents. Hospital officials said at least one person was killed and 12 were wounded, many of them children.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 1,037 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 787 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 899 U.S. military members have died — 678 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

An explosion went off Thursday evening in Baghdad, though its cause was not immediately known. The military announced that a U.S. Marine was killed the day before in Anbar province, west of Baghdad.

The fighting and rash of kidnappings have shown the vulnerability even in the capital, where British hostage Kenneth Bigley and two American colleagues were abducted from their home last week. The two Americans were beheaded — their slayings shown on grisly videos posted on the Internet — and their bodies dumped not far from their Baghdad residence.

In a video made public Wednesday, Bigley appealed to British Prime Minister Tony Blair to intervene and meet his kidnappers' demands. "I think this is possibly my last chance," he said. "I don't want to die."

Bigley's brother, Paul, accused the Unit-

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday when a vehicle bomb exploded near a traffic control point in Baghdad.

■ A soldier died Wednesday of injuries from an earlier attack in Mosul.

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday in an explosion during an attack near Tikrit.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Steven C. T. Giles, 22, Mount Juliet, Tenn.; killed Monday in Anbar province, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Joshua J. Henry, 21, Avonmore, Pa.; killed Monday after his convoy was attacked near Sharaq, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

ed States of wrecking efforts to save his brother's life after U.S. officials and Allawi quickly quashed a comment by an Iraqi official that one of the female prisoners would be freed by Thursday.

"This was a shadow of light in a big, long, dark, damp, filthy, cold tunnel. Now this has been sabotaged," Paul Bigley told the British Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday.

Bigley's wife appealed to the kidnappers to release her husband.

Sombat Bigley, a Thai woman, said she had seen the video with Bigley's plea for help.

"We have been married for seven years and I love him very much... I desperately want to be reunited with my husband," she said, reading a Thai-language statement at a press conference in Bangkok.

The 62-year-old Bigley was being held

by a militant group led by Jordanian-born terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The group already has beheaded Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, demanding the release of all female prisoners in Iraq.

Two high-profile female security detainees are in custody — Rihab Rashid Taha, a scientist who became known as "Dr. Germ" for helping Iraq make weapons out of anthrax, and Marjorie Matloob Anwar, a biotech researcher known as "Mrs. Anthrax."

A dispute broke out Wednesday when Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Justice Ministry announced that Taha would be freed on bail "Wednesday or Thursday" because she was no longer a threat to national security.

But the U.S. Embassy and Allawi quickly said the women would not be released soon. Allawi underlined that U.S. and Iraqi authorities would not give in to hostage-takers' demands.

"We have not been negotiating and we will not negotiate with terrorists on the release of hostages," Allawi told The Associated Press. "Really, my heart goes out for the victims of terrorism, and their families and we are trying to do our best to ensure the release of them."

Iraqi national security adviser Qasim Dawoud said Thursday that while the status of prisoners — including Taha — is under review, there was "no question" of making decisions on them "in the light of the demands of a terrorist group which has taken three hostages and criminally and barbarically murdered two of them."

In another hostage drama, two statements surfaced on the Internet from different groups, each claiming to have killed two kidnapped Italian aid workers. The second statement said a video of the slaying of the two women, Simona Parisi and Simona Torretta, would be made public, but Italy cast doubt on both claims' authenticity.

"Italian intelligence services... believe these claims to be completely unreliable," Enzo Bianco, the head of the parliament commission overseeing secret services, told Italian news agencies.

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Allawi thanks Americans for Iraq sacrifices

By JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Standing beside Iraq's interim leader, President Bush contended Thursday that insurgents could "plot and plan attacks elsewhere, in America and other free nations," if the United States pulled out.

Bush said his top commander there has not asked for more troops but if he did, "I'd listen to him."

After meeting with interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Bush said he expects violence in Iraq to escalate as the country moves toward elections scheduled for January. Even so, Allawi said more foreign troops are not needed.

"To have more troops, we don't need," he said, suggesting that Iraq instead should train its own security forces.

Allawi addressed Congress — one of his first to a wider audience than those in Iraq — before meeting with Bush.

"We Iraqis know that Americans have made and continue to make enormous sacrifices to liberate Iraq, to assure Iraq's freedom," Allawi said. "I have come here to thank you and to promise you that your sacrifices are not in vain."

Allawi told the joint meeting of Congress that his country is moving successfully past the war that ousted Saddam Hussein and vowed that elections will take place next year as scheduled, "because Iraqis want elections on time."

He cautioned, however, that the election may not come off perfectly. But he assured it will be free and fair, "a giant step" in Iraq's political evolution.

In a clear jab at Democratic op-



President Bush and Iraq's prime minister, Ayad Allawi, hold a joint news conference Thursday in the Rose Garden at the White House. Allawi, left, says he shares the view that things are getting better in his country.

ponent John Kerry, Bush said the United States must remain in Iraq to fight insurgents, who he said are part of the global terror threat.

"If we stop fighting the terrorists in Iraq, they would be free to plot and plan attacks elsewhere, in America and other free na-

tions," he said.

Kerry has said that U.S. forces can prevail in Iraq if led properly, and he's set a goal of beginning to withdraw troops within six months of taking office and of being out of Iraq in four years. [See related story on page 8]

Meanwhile, Gen. John Abizaid,

commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, said Wednesday it was possible that more U.S. troops would be needed to secure Iraq's elections, but that Iraq and perhaps international troops may be able to do the job instead. "I think we will need more troops than we currently have," Abizaid said.

Raking it in



JENNIFER LINDESE/Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

From left, Airman 1st Class Adam Will, Airman 1st Class Jonathan Norton and Staff Sgt. William Marley rake concrete before Airman 1st Class Michael Shannon uses a power screw to finish the job. The four are deployed to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan as part of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group Civil Engineer Flight.

U.S. to return enemy combatant to Saudi Arabia but limit travel

By CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. citizen held since late 2001 as an enemy combatant will be sent back to Saudi Arabia under an agreement between the Justice Department and his lawyers.

Yaser Esam Hamdi must renounce his American citizenship and agree never to travel to certain countries under the agreement announced Wednesday. But Hamdi, whose case led to a Supreme Court decision limiting the president's powers to indefinitely hold wartime combatants, will not face criminal charges.

"I am gratified at the prospect that Mr. Hamdi's return to Saudi Arabia and his family is now only days away," Hamdi's lawyer, fed-

eral public defender Frank Dunham Jr., said in a statement.

Hamdi, born in Baton Rouge, La., and raised in Saudi Arabia, will be flown by the Defense Department to Saudi Arabia as soon as transportation can be arranged. He was being held in a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C. The exact timing of his return was uncertain.

Saudi officials say he faces no charges there.

The agreement negotiated by Dunham and the Justice Department stipulates that Hamdi is forbidden from traveling to Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the United States.

Justice Department spokesman Mark Corallo said the restrictions are meant to ensure Hamdi

cannot again take up arms against the United States or its allies. Corallo said Hamdi no longer posed a threat to the United States and no longer has intelligence value, leading to the decision to release him.

"As we have repeatedly stated, the United States has no interest in detaining enemy combatants beyond the point that they pose a threat to the U.S. and our allies," Corallo said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, questioned Wednesday how the Justice Department could "release and send to Saudi Arabia someone they said was so dangerous that he had to be held for years in a military stockade and could not be allowed to consult with a lawyer."

Third Guantanamo spy case falls apart for military

By KIM CURTIS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The military dropped an espionage charge against a Muslim interpreter accused of spying at a camp for terrorism detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the third such case to fall apart this year.

Senior Airman Ahmad Al Halabi pleaded guilty to four "minor infractions," said his lawyer,

Donald Rehkopf Jr.

Specifically, he admitted to taking two photos of his workplace and lying about it. He also brought a classified document home without locking it up, which led to a guilty plea to a charge of "conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline."

The judge, Air Force Col. Barbara Brandt, approved the plea deal during a hearing Wednesday at Travis Air Force Base, about

an hour northeast of San Francisco. His sentence on the remaining charges was not yet announced.

Prosecutor Lt. Col. Brian Wheeler disagreed that the convictions were minor. "He took secret documents to his residence, he mailed them to himself," Wheeler said outside court. "It is, as a matter of law, serious. 'Secret' means serious damage to national security if it gets out."

Al Halabi, 25, a naturalized American who was born in Syria, was accused of trying to deliver messages from detainees at Guantanamo to his homeland. He was arrested last July as he headed to Syria to get married.

Before he was sent to Guantanamo Bay for temporary duty, Al Halabi was a supply clerk at Travis Air Force Base.

He was initially accused of attempting to deliver nearly 200

messages from detainees to an unidentified Syrian. But the case has been falling apart for months. Without explanation, prosecutors in December dropped several charges, including an "aiding the enemy" accusation that carried the death penalty.

The Air Force also recently acknowledged that all but one of the documents found in Al Halabi's possession when he was arrested were not classified after all.

IN THE STATES

Kerry says Bush is avoiding reality of Iraq



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry is interviewed by Spencer Smith, 11, of Freedom News Network, before Kerry departs Wednesday for Columbus, Ohio, from West Palm Beach, Fla. FNN is the TV station for Freedom Shores Elementary School in Boynton Beach, Fla.

BY NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Thursday that Iraq's Ayad Allawi was sent before Congress to put the "best face" on a Bush administration policy that has gone wrong.

Shortly after Allawi, the interim government's prime minister, gave a rosy portrayal of progress toward peace in Iraq, Kerry said the assessment contradicted Allawi's own statements as well as the reality on the ground.

"I think the prime minister is, obviously, contradicting his own statement of a few days ago, where he said the terrorists are pouring into the country," Kerry said. "The prime minister and the president are here obviously to put their best face on the policy, but the fact is that the CIA estimates, the reporting, the ground operations and the troops all tell a different story."

Kerry was referring to comments Allawi made Sunday on ABC's "This Week." But Allawi also expressed optimism about the mission in that appearance.

"Foreign terrorists are still pouring in, and they're trying to inflict damage on Iraq to undermine Iraq and to undermine the process, democratic process in Iraq, and, indeed, this is their last stand," Allawi said. "So they are putting a very severe fight on Iraq. We are winning. We will continue to win. We are going to prevail."

Allawi told a joint meeting of Congress Thursday that democratic elections will take place in Iraq in January as scheduled, but Kerry said that was unrealistic.

"The United States and the Iraqis have retreated from whole areas of Iraq," Kerry told reporters. "There are no-go zones in Iraq today. You can't hold an election in a no-go zone."

Kerry said President George W. Bush should convene a summit of international leaders to ask for their help in Iraq. He also said the president missed an opportunity to get foreign support during two days of diplomacy at the United Nations this week.

"The president skeddaddled out of New York so quickly he barely had time to talk to any leaders," Kerry said.

Kerry's remarks come one day after he told The Associated Press that Bush's state-

ment that a "handful" of people were willing to kill to stop progress in Iraq was a blunder that showed he was avoiding reality.

"George Bush let Osama bin Laden escape at Tora Bora," Kerry said in the brief interview Wednesday. "George Bush retreated from Fallujah and other communities in Iraq which are now overrun with terrorists and threaten our troops." And George Bush said on the record we can't win the war on terror.

"And even today, he blundered again saying there are only a handful of terrorists in Iraq," Kerry said. "I think he's living in a make believe world."

Bush, campaigning in Pennsylvania on Wednesday, said: "It's hard to help a country go from tyranny to elections to peace when there are a handful of people who are willing to kill in order to stop the process. And that's what you're seeing on the TV screens. You know, these people cannot beat us militarily."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Thursday, "It only took 19 people to take down the World Trade Center towers and kill 3,000 people." He said that in Iraq, "you've seen how a small number of suicide bombers can have a dramatic effect."

Senate confirms Goss as director of the CIA

Bush tax cuts may be extended

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER
SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led Senate approved President Bush's choice to head the CIA, Rep. Porter Goss, over protests from some Democrats who said he has too many Republican ties for a job that requires independence.

The nomination of the Florida congressman, who had planned to retire after eight terms, was confirmed Wednesday

by a vote of 77-17. A former CIA and Army intelligence officer during the 1960s, Goss would be only the second congressman to take over the helm of the CIA, following former President and House member George H.W. Bush, the current president's father.

President Bush, who nominated Goss to the post, called him "a leader with strong experience in

intelligence and in the fight against terrorists" and "the right man" to take over the agency as the administration implements intelligence reforms.

Goss, 65, will lead an intelligence community that has faced intense criticism for failures prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and for its prewar estimates on Iraq. Yet defenders say the 15 agencies that make up the U.S. intelligence network have become more focused and made changes to address international terrorism and other threats.

During six hours of debate, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the senior Democrat on the intelligence panel, questioned whether Goss would be politically objective and outlined a series of attacks Goss has made on the Democratic Party and its presidential nominee, Sen. John Kerry.

While Goss has promised not to be a partisan Republican as CIA director, "I must vote on his record. I cannot vote on his promise."

Should Kerry be elected president, he would be expected to pick a different CIA director. Neither Kerry nor his running mate, Sen. John Edwards voted on the confirmation.

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation to extend several popular middle class tax cuts cleared a House-Senate conference and could be on President Bush's desk within days, handing him a major legislative victory in the closing weeks of the presidential campaign.

The \$145.9 billion package marked the fourth significant tax cut package that the president has championed since taking office.

The bill was considered must-pass legislation by Republicans because without it provisions dealing with the child tax credit, relieving the marriage penalty and providing an expanded 10 percent tax bracket would have expired at the end of this year.

The House was expected to take up the measure as early as Thursday. Republican leaders predicted it would win Senate passage either Friday or early next week.

"President Bush has made it a priority to make sure that families keep more of their own money, and we intend to deliver on that priority," House Ways and Means Committee Chair-

man Bill Thomas, R-Calif., said after a joint House-Senate conference committee completed work on the bill late Wednesday.

While Democrats has originally argued that the government could not afford the price tag of extending the tax cuts in light of soaring budget deficits, leaders of both parties expected the legislation to pass easily in both chambers.

Bush had rejected a deal in July that would have extended the tax cuts for just one year and paid for them by closing various corporate tax loopholes. He held out instead for a five-year extension in a gamble that opposition would lessen the closer lawmakers got to the November elections.

All members of the House must stand for re-election on Nov. 2, as will two-dozen senators.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., who is in a tight re-election race, said last week that he could support the longer extension and would not insist on the tax cuts being paid for by raising taxes in other areas.

The tax package would keep the child tax credit at \$1,000, instead of letting it drop to \$700. It also would continue an expanded 10 percent tax rate that lowers tax bills for virtually all tax-

payees. A third provision would continue to offer married couples relief from the so-called marriage penalty that can take a bigger tax bite from some couples than if they were single taxpayers.

Another child tax credit was extended for five years, while the marriage penalty relief was extended for four years and the expanded 10 percent tax bracket for six years.

In addition to those three provisions, the tax package would extend for one year current relief from the alternative minimum tax, which was intended to make sure that wealthy Americans did not escape paying taxes but is starting to ensnare more middle income taxpayers.

The cost of the middle class tax relief was put at \$131.4 billion over 10 years.

Other tax breaks which would be extended included support for the economic recovery of New York City's lower Manhattan district, which was hit during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and tax credits to support the purchase of electric cars and the production of electricity from wind and biomass products, including poultry litter. The total cost for expanding the existing business tax breaks was put at \$129.7 billion.



Goss

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Ivan reappears in Gulf, may hit U.S. again



An SUV is mostly covered by sand Wednesday as residents in Pensacola Beach, Fla., were finally allowed to see their homes and inspect the damage by Hurricane Ivan. Ivan may yet again pose a threat, to Texas and Louisiana, as its remnants have regained strength and are expected to make landfall on Thursday night.

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ivan is making an encore appearance in the Gulf of Mexico, this time as a tropical storm that could come ashore along the coasts of Texas or Louisiana.

Ivan already has kicked seas up several feet, posing a threat to fragile barrier islands and their beaches in both states, and forced some offshore oil and gas crews to head home.

After hitting Florida on Sept. 16 as a hurricane, Ivan weakened and broke apart as it traveled north, drenching southern and mid-Atlantic states before returning to sea. Its remnants then swung southward, growing slightly as it traveled over warmer waters.

The regenerated storm was expected to make landfall in the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday night, and could bring 50 mph winds and 5 to 10 inches of rain.

"It looks like from what they told us earlier that probably we'll see some minor coastal flooding, beach erosion sometime tomorrow," said Tessa Duffey-Wroblecki, Galveston County's emergency management coordinator.

In Louisiana, Cameron Parish leaders were keeping an eye on the storm, but hadn't issued any evacuation orders yet, said Emer-

gency Preparedness Director Freddie Richard Jr. The swampy parish is located in the southwest corner of the state.

"We're just advising people in low-lying areas in Cameron Parish to prepare to move to higher ground if the tides come up," he said.

The National Hurricane Center issued a tropical storm warning for the Gulf of Mexico shoreline from the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana west to Sargent, Texas.

Ivan was upgraded to a tropical storm Wednesday evening after sustained winds were measured near 40 mph. The hurricane center said the storm could strengthen before landfall.

Hurricanes only rarely return to open water, regain strength and threaten land again, said meteorologist Richard Knabb. "It doesn't happen very often," Knabb said. "But we've had past tropical cyclones that lose their designation and then regenerate."

The first round of Ivan and its remnants were blamed for at least 52 deaths in the United States and 70 in the Caribbean.

Also Wednesday, North Carolina officials warned coastal residents they may have to evacuate as early as Sunday if Hurricane Jeanne continues on its projected path.

Gator back at Ala. zoo

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Chucky, the most wanted fugitive out of Gulf Shores, Ala., proved Wednesday that you can go home again. At least you can when you're a 12-foot-long, 1,000-pound American alligator.

After creating a national stir when he disappeared last week during Hurricane Ivan, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo's star attraction was located Tuesday in a sludgy drainage ditch at the zoo. A team of gator trackers captured him with a nose and heavy duct tape. State troopers and local police officers

then helped haul him to a bear pen, before returning him to the shallow pond where he has spent the last 15 years.

"He was lost and scared, the poor guy," said Tim Williams, a gator wrestler and media spokesman for Gatorland, an Orlando park that sent a team of experts to search for Chucky. "He's happy to be home."

Chucky is accustomed to hand-fed chicken lunches. Zoo officials were less worried that he would starve than they were worried that he would eat. Chucky has learned to associate people with food.

Fla. court strikes law keeping woman alive

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday struck down a law that was rushed through the Legislature last fall to keep a severely brain-damaged woman hooked up to a feeding tube against her husband's wishes.

The unanimous court said the law that kept Terri Schiavo alive violated the separation of powers between the judicial branch and the legislative and executive branches.

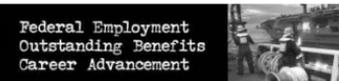
Lower courts had ruled that Michael Schiavo could have the tube removed, but the Legislature passed the law to overrule the courts. Gov. Jeb Bush then used the law to order the tube reinserted.

It was not immediately known if the ruling would clear the way for the tube's final removal. An attorney for Terri Schiavo's parents, who want her kept alive, would not speculate. Michael Schiavo's attorneys did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Terri Schiavo, who lives in a nursing home, can breathe on her own but relies on a feeding and hydration tube to live. Courts have concluded she is in a "persistent vegetative state," but maneuvering over her fate has produced a closely watched right-to-die fight.



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House seeks more federal anti-terror powers

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House leaders want to increase federal investigators' anti-terrorism powers similar to a Patriot Act II draft proposal from last year, as senators make final changes in their legislation addressing the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations.

In a draft of the House GOP legislation obtained by The Associated Press, many of the provisions were similar to the draft copy of the "Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003" that a nonprofit group said had leaked out of the Justice Department in January 2003.

Justice Department officials said at that time that they had made no final decision

on the legislation, and never submitted it to Congress.

But many of the anti-terrorism provisions of that draft show up in the House discussion draft section on terrorism prevention and prosecution that is part of the proposed House legislation.

Among the provisions are measures on the deportation of immigrants who become members of or help terrorist groups, required pretrial detention for terrorism suspects, warrants against noncitizens even when a target can't be tied directly to a foreign power, and enhanced penalties for threats or attempts to use chemical or nuclear weapons against the United States, including attacks through the mail system.

A spokesman for House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said Wednesday

that House members still were working on a final version of the legislation. A Justice Department spokesman said they had not seen the House draft.

"This draft bill deals directly with the recommendations of the 9/11 commission report," said Jeff Lungren, spokesman for the House Judiciary Committee.

But an American Civil Liberties Union official said her organization also saw similarities between the House bill and the draft proposal. "Nowhere in its recommendations does the 9/11 Commission ask Congress to pass a sequel to the Patriot Act," said Laura V. Murphy, director of the ACLU Washington legislative office.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said that adding "extremely divisive and counterproductive language" would make it harder to get a final

bill through Congress. "Whether or not we ought to expand the Patriot Act is certainly a matter for debate," he said Thursday.

Republicans have backed the Patriot Act as a critical tool in the post-Sept. 11, 2001, war on terrorism, while many Democrats charge it authorizes heavy-handed infringements on civil liberties.

The House is expected to begin marking up the far-reaching bill next week.

The Senate, meanwhile, is expected to begin first considering its legislation creating a national intelligence director and a national counterterrorism center next week. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on Wednesday voted 17-0 to send a bill to the full Senate for consideration, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has blocked off the week to work on it, said Sen. Susan Collins, the committee chairwoman.

Survivors emerge two days after crash

The Associated Press

KALISPELL, Mont. — Two days after they were reported killed in a plane crash, two Forest Service employees emerged from the wilderness, astonishing their relatives and baffling rescuers still picking through the charred wreckage.

Jodee Hogg, 23, of Billings, and Matthew Ramige, 29, of Jackson Hole, Wyo., were spotted along a highway Wednesday, nearly 48 hours after the wreck that killed three others, officials said.

"You can't believe the elation," said Jim Hogg, Jodee's father.

Hogg was hospitalized in stable condition Thursday, while Ramige was in intensive care in serious condition.

Fleathead County Sheriff Jim Dupont learned there were survivors Wednesday while at the crash site on a mountain south of Glacier National Park, where he had been sifting through the burned wreckage and human remains.

"It's just an unbelievable miracle. You look at that crash site, that wreckage, you'd never believe anyone could have survived," he said.

The single-engine aircraft under contract to the Forest Service left Kalispell on Monday on a



The wreckage of a single-engine plane that crashed Monday is seen strewn in the Great Bear Wilderness near Essex, Mont. Three people died in the crash; two survived.

30-minute flight to the Great Bear-Bot Marshall Wilderness Complex.

The four passengers planned to conduct an annual vegetation inventory and repair telecommunications facilities. The plane was last heard from 15 minutes later, during stormy weather.

Dupont said the aircraft went from more than 100 mph to zero in less than 40 feet.

"Who can survive that?" Dupont asked. A fire "literally melted everything."

The dead were identified as pilot

Jim Long, 60, of Kalispell; Davita Bryant, 32, a Forest Service worker from Whitefish; and Ken Good, 58, a Fleathead forest employee also from Whitefish.

Good managed to get out of the wreckage, but died nearby. His body was recovered late Tuesday. There were three un buckled seat belts, the sheriff said. "Now, I know why."

"Can you imagine these families?" asked Bob Bryant, father-in-law of victim Davita Bryant. "They've been told their kids are dead. And now they are resurrected."

Report: Variations in medical care kill thousands in U.S.

By **MARK SHERMAN**

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Requiring doctors and hospitals to report publicly on their performance and tying their pay to the results would dramatically reduce avoidable deaths and costs attributable to poor medical care, says a new report from an organization that works to improve health care quality.

Wid variations in medical care led to 79,000 avoidable deaths and \$1.8 billion in additional medical costs last year, the private National Committee for Quality Assurance said in its annual report released Wednesday.

The report described a substantial gap in quality between the best providers and the national average for treating a range of common conditions that would not be tolerated in almost any other sector of the U.S. economy. For example, failure to control high blood pressure resulted in up to 26,000 deaths last year that could have been avoided with competent medical care, the report said.

The differences in health care quality persist even as health insurance premiums have risen by

more than 10 percent annually for the past four years. "This report underscores that all too often we are not getting good value for that money," said Peter V. Lee, president and chief executive of the Pacific Business Group on Health, a coalition of businesses that provide health insurance to 3 million people.

On the other hand, the report found that health insurance plans that publicly report their performance showed marked improvement in most areas, including cholesterol management, diabetes care, breast cancer screening and flu shots for adults.

Better control of blood pressure will lead to 2,500 fewer fatal heart attacks in 2004, the report said. Health plans also did a better job of reducing cholesterol levels among patients with diabetes, it said.

But those plans cover only about a quarter of the U.S. population, about 69 million people.

"The data we have tell a great story, health care quality is improving consistently and dramatically," said Margaret E. O'Kane, CEO of a private company that has performance data for the other 75 percent of the U.S. health care system."

No-fly lists in spotlight

WASHINGTON — A gap in the airline passenger-check system permitted Yusuf Islam, formerly known as singer Cat Stevens, to board a London-to-Washington flight despite being on a no-fly list for suspected ties to terrorists, a Bush administration official said Thursday.

The incident dramatizes a need for changes to tighten the security, said Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for Homeland Security.

He said the rules need to be changed to permit federal authorities to review passenger lists, particularly for international flights, at least an hour before a plane takes off.

Oops! No license

LOS ANGELES — So, did she or didn't? Britney Spears most definitely got married last week, People magazine reports in its Oct. 4 issue filled with pictures of the pop star and her fiance, Kevin Federline, in wedding apparel and surrounded by family and friends.

What the couple didn't do, according to the Los Angeles County registrar's office, is file a marriage license after the ceremony.

No big deal, says a member of the singer's camp who declined to be quoted by name.

"They're scheduled to file it next week," she said on Wednesday.

From wire reports

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IN THE WORLD

Aid in Russia delayed

Confusion over school hostage numbers holds up money

BY MARIA DANILOVA

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Ongoing confusion over exactly how many people were taken hostage during a deadly siege at a southern Russia school is delaying the distribution of more than \$20 million in charity aid, officials said Thursday.

In the three weeks after the school in Beslan was seized by Chechen rebels, leading to the deaths of more than 330 people, nearly \$20.4 million was collected from corporate and private donors in Russia and abroad, according to the Web site of the Regional Development Bank, which is handling the money. But none of that money has been given to survivors, said Fatima Khabalova, spokeswoman for the North Ossetian parliament. Beslan is in North Ossetia.

The payments have been delayed because of confusion over the exact number of people held inside the school during the deadly Sept. 1-3 siege, said Timur Butayev, a member of the school teachers' committee set up to aid hostage victims.

The Russian Interior Ministry said 1,189 people were taken hostage. But the school teachers' committee said there were more than 1,350 people inside the school when rebels armed with guns and bombs stormed the building.

The tally is difficult to settle because so many relatives accompanied children to school that day, the first day of classes, officials say. Investigators also say they are having difficulty identifying some remains.

The seizure ended in a hail of explosions and gunfire that left more than 330 people dead, nearly half of them children.

Khabalova said payments from the \$20.4 million fund could start next week. She did not say how the money would be divided among the former hostages and their relatives, but said the Social Development and Labor Ministry would oversee distribution.

So far, Beslan victims have received money only from the regional budget and from donors to their Web site, www.beslan.ru. Butayev said. Donors have contributed \$9,120 to the Web site, Butayev said.

Victims also have started receiving financial aid from the regional government of North Ossetia, Khabalova said. Each family is entitled to \$3,450 for a dead relative and another \$860 to cover funeral costs. Gravely wounded victims are entitled to \$1,725 and the lesser injured \$860.

The federal government will match those amounts to eligible victims beginning next week, Butayev said. The money will be transferred only after regional prosecutors confirm the injuries — further delaying the process.

Beslan victims already have received 257 tons of humanitarian aid from around the world, including 58 tons of medicine, 94 tons of medical equipment, 16 tons of clothing, 81 tons of groceries and 6 tons of toys, the Gazeta.ru Web site reported, citing regional Emergency Ministry officials.

Lufthansa problems

FRANKFURT, Germany — A problem with German airline Lufthansa's computerized check-in system led to cancellations and delays for its European flights for several hours Thursday, the airline said in a statement.

Before the problem was fixed shortly after noon, 33 flights had to be canceled, the statement said. Many others were delayed by up to 90 minutes.

Flights from Lufthansa partners British Midland, Austrian Airlines and Poland's LOT were also affected.

Lufthansa spokesman Stefan Schaffrath said the problem was caused by a failure with the airline's software. It had no impact on security, the airline said.

Bosnia mass grave

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Forensic experts have exhumed 249 bodies from a mass grave in northeastern Bosnia containing victims of the country's devastating 1992-95 war, an official said Thursday.

Murat Hurlic, an official with the missing persons commission for the Muslim-Croat part of the country, said exhumations have been completed at the site in the village of Bljevac, about 55 miles northeast of Sarajevo.

Based on the documents and other evidence found on the bodies, most of the dead appeared to be Bosnian Muslims killed in the 1995 massacre in nearby Srebrenica, the largest massacre of civilians in Europe since World War II, he said.

The remains will undergo DNA analysis in an attempt to identify them. The site is a so-called secondary grave, where bodies initially buried elsewhere were dumped in an effort to hide them, Hurlic said.

Marijuana seizure

VIENNA, Austria — It would be hard to forget to wear these plants.

Police said Thursday they seized more than 2,300 marijuana plants that were being grown inside a house in Vienna. The home's owner, whose name was

not released, was arrested along with two other people. Police Major Hans Roudny said the bust happened Wednesday night.

Compulsory service

BERLIN — Germany's lower house of parliament voted overwhelmingly Thursday against a plan to reinstate the country's compulsory military service.

After a debate lasting more than two hours, only 44 of parliament's 573 members voted for the proposal submitted by the small pro-business Free Democratic Party.

Germany requires nine months of military service from its citizens, though many opt for alternate civilian service in social work, hospitals and similar public-service jobs.

The Free Democrats parliamentary leader Wolfgang Gerhard argued that ending the military service would free the money used to train new recruits for other needed projects or programs.

From The Associated Press

Deadly crash



A school bus is pulled out of a reservoir in Erechim, some 620 miles southwest of Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. The school bus swerved off a narrow road and plunged into the reservoir early Wednesday killing at least 16 children.

Rebel group favors U.N. sanctions against Sudan

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

NDJAMENA, Chad — One of western Sudan's main rebel movements endorsed proposed U.N. sanctions against Sudan, saying Thursday that only such pressure would force the government to stop the killing in Darfur.

Two political leaders of the Sudan Liberation Army spoke to The Associated Press in the capital of Chad, the western neighbor of Sudan, days after the U.N. Security Council resolved to consider oil sanctions on Sudan over the government's alleged backing for ethnic cleansing in Darfur.

"Sanctions will help pressure this government, will help this government come to its senses," said Sharif Harir, who was chief negotiator for the Sudan Liberation Army at the failed peace talks in Nigeria.

"The government is using this oil revenue to buy weapons, guns, (Russia's Antonov) planes) to kill our people. So I have to support (the sanctions)," said Adam Shogar, another of the rebel group's leaders.

In an 11-0 vote on Saturday with four abstentions — China, Russia, Pakistan and Algeria — the Security Council said it would

meet again to consider sanctions against Sudan's petroleum sector, or other measures, if Sudan did not act quickly to stop the violence in Darfur and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The resolution also authorized U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to appoint a commission to investigate reports of human rights violations in Darfur and determine "whether or not acts of genocide have occurred," as the United States and others have charged.

Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir shrugged off the U.N. resolution, saying his government was not afraid of it. The Foreign Ministry said that while the resolution was flawed, the government would try "to bring the situation to normal in Darfur."

Critics of sanctions as a diplomatic weapon say they create hardship for a country's people while doing little to force change.

Harir said that in Sudan, only the ruling elite controls oil and the oil wealth, and only they would be suffer from U.N. sanctions.

As for sanctions hurting the people, "One-point-four million people are without homes. What more hardship is there than that?" Harir asked rhetorically.

Tough security raises concerns of civil liberties violations in Netherlands

BY TOBY STERLING

The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — After the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, Dutch intelligence claimed to have uncovered a series of Islamic terrorist plots, prompting many people here to wonder "Are we next?"

The terror fears have spawned a raft of harsh security measures — from forcing citizens over 13 to carry identity cards, to author-

izing police to stop and search people with no apparent cause — that challenge the image of the Netherlands as one of the world's most progressive nations.

Some people are already talking about a serious erosion of civil liberties.

"The government is playing a game of panic football, where they move from one expansion of the law to another in reaction to the latest development," said Jes-

sica Silversmith, a spokeswoman for the National Anti-Discrimination Bureau, a nongovernmental organization.

There is no equivalent to the U.S. Patriot Act in Europe, most countries have taken anti-terrorism steps that curtail civil liberties: Britain has held foreign suspects without charge, while Germany began religious profiling of suspects in the days after Sept. 11.

In France, with its history of at-

tacks from Algerian dissidents, special judges have wiretapping powers similar to those granted to prosecutors under new Dutch laws.

But the new power of the law enforcement agencies seem an odd fit here in the Netherlands — a country with a let-live attitude that was the first to tolerate marijuana use and to legalize euthanasia and gay marriage.

Among other measures implemented in reaction to the threat

of terror in the Netherlands are relaxing rules on wiretapping and monitoring Internet traffic, and tripling the amount of time suspects can be held without charge from three days to ten.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, 40 Muslims have been arrested on suspicion of terrorism-related activity — only two have been convicted of any crime. The latest arrests came in July, but the detentions were only disclosed this month.



People make their way through knee-deep, muddy water running through Gonaives, Haiti. The government said up to 1,250 people were still missing and that the death toll could rise to 2,000 people.

Haiti's death toll from Jeanne now over 1,100

Estimated quarter million left homeless

BY AMY BRACKEN
The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — Hungry, thirsty and increasingly desperate residents burned tires in protest and attacked each other in a panic to get scarce food and water Thursday as workers struggled to bury hundreds of victims of Tropical Storm Jeanne.

More than 1,100 were killed, 1,250 were missing and the toll was still rising Thursday, six days after the storm hit.

Hundreds pushed through a wooden barrier to crowd into the sole working clinic for treatment, but only one doctor was there Thursday morning.

Some residents had grown so desperate to get rid of putrefying corpses they were burying them in their back yards.

Health workers feared an epidemic from the unburied bodies and animal carcasses, overflowing sewage, lack of potable water and infections from injuries.

The government's civil protection agency said more than 900

people have been treated, most for gasches from fallen zinc roofs. Medics from U.N. peacekeeping troops in Gonaives have helped treat the injured.

But the main General Hospital remains out of commission — knee-deep in mud that nurses said hide bodies of dozens of patients — medical supplies are running out and some aid trucks were unable to reach Gonaives Wednesday because the road was washed away in parts with others blocked by mudslides.

About 250,000 were left homeless in Haiti's northwest province, which includes the port of Gonaives.

"We were saved from the floods but now my baby is sick," said Marilucie Fortune, 30, who gave birth to a son in a stum during the weekend, as Jeanne pounded the city with its torrential rains for some 30 hours.

Workers dug new mass graves for bodies that still littered the city, in mud caking the city, trapped in collapsed homes and floating in floodwaters that still ran knee-deep in some places.

"There are so many bodies, you smell them but you don't see them," said farmer Louise Roland, who like many held a lime to her nose to mask the stench.

In the seaside slum of Carenage, people were burying bodies of unidentified victims in their yards. That could cause yet another health hazard since bodies easily could be forced up from shallow seaside graves.

"We need surgical masks, water and food," said Frantz Bernier, who was burning tires to protest the lack of government help. "We don't have anything."

The official toll rose to 1,105 bodies recovered by Thursday — the vast majority in Gonaives — with 1,250 missing and nearly 1,000 injured, according to Dieudore Deslorges, spokesman for the government's civil protection agency.

Police erected barbed wire around their station Thursday after people fired shots at the station overnight. Officer Louis Francois said they feared attack by about 20 inmates who escaped from jail during the storm.

Russian president: U.S. not stemming Afghan drug trade

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan were doing "almost nothing" to stem the flow of drugs from that country.

Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, Afghanistan's opium production has risen dramatically and much of it makes its way to Western Europe via Central Asia and Russia. The cultivation of opium poppies was largely eliminated under the Taliban's religious policing, but farmers have resumed cultivating and harvesting the profitable crop.

"They are doing almost nothing there even to lessen the drug threat," Putin said at a meeting with the head of Russia's drug agency, Viktor Cherkesov, refer-

ring to the U.S.-led international force in Afghanistan. "Our efforts through diplomatic and political channels are not achieving results yet."

He said it was necessary to step up cooperation with all the countries involved in the anti-terrorism effort in Afghanistan, and especially to drive home to Western countries that they, too, were threatened by the Afghan drug trade.

Putin said that Russian drug authorities should do a better job of informing the West of the drug threat they themselves face.

Cherkesov told Putin that exports estimate 70 percent to 80 percent of the opiates in Britain originate in Afghanistan. U.N. surveys estimate Afghanistan accounted for three-quarters of the world's opium last year, and the trade brought in \$2.3 billion.

Brits add new people into Oxford dictionary

BY SUE LEAMAN

The Associated Press

LONDON — Former U.S. President George Washington and Diana, Princess of Wales are near the back, while the front features lesser-knowns such as murdered Liverpool toddler Jamie Bulger and the Busby Babes, a tragic soccer team.

It's not another web museum, but the latest edition of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, the printed pantheon of Britons great and small, published Thursday.

The inclusion of Linda McCartney, the late photographer wife of ex-Beatle Paul and a campaigner for animal rights, raised some eyebrows. But publishers said it was a sign that the 60-volume work is simply becoming more egalitarian.

Linda McCartney, said also a writer Brian Harrison, "was also a very important cultural figure in her own right."

"I'm not saying that she should get as much attention as Queen Victoria, but the great pride of the dictionary is that it should have people as well as large people in it," he said.

In their bid to include more of those who have affected British public life, the editors have in-

cluded some darker examples among the 54,922 entries — those whose deaths, as much as their lives, have affected Britain:

■ John Bulger, a 2-year-old toddler who was abducted and murdered by two 10-year-old boys in his home town of Liverpool, a case that caused a national outcry.

■ Stephen Lawrence, 18-year-old son of Jamaican immigrants, murdered by white youths in 1993; his case led to a change in procedures by the London police force, which bungled the investigation.

■ Jill Dando, a TV personality shot to death on her own doorstep in 1999.

■ Members of the Manchester United soccer team — known affectionately as the Busby Babes — who were killed in a plane crash in Germany in 1958.

"These are not just people who were killed but people who had an impact," said project director Robert Faber.

"It has taken 12 years and more than \$45 million to update the dictionary, founded in 1882 by Leslie Stephen, a father of writer Virginia Woolf. A team of researchers will now revise its content three times a year.

Only people who died before Dec. 31, 2000, are included.

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OPINION/OMBUDSMAN

Business addressed wrong audience at U.N.

The (Baltimore) Sun

It was to be expected that President Bush's address Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly would be aimed less at the diplomatic audience than at the domestic political audience that will vote within weeks on his re-election bid.

And from that standpoint, he probably achieved what he set out to do: reaffirming the correctness of his course in ousting Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq without U.N. approval, and casting that action as part of a broader cause — notably the widely supported war in Afghanistan — to make the world safer by fighting tyranny and bringing freedom to oppressed peoples.

"Eventually," he said, "there is no safe isolation from terror networks or failed states that shelter them or outlaw regimes or weapons of mass destruction. Eventual-

ly, there is no safety in looking away."

Yet in once again stoking domestic security fears, even in the face of ample evidence that the Iraqi regime posed no immediate threat to the United States, the president may have missed the chance to truly engage world leaders in that broader cause.

His new proposal — creation of a fund within the United Nations to assist fledgling democracies such as Iraq in conducting elections, and establishing independent courts, a free press, political parties and trade unions — was offered as a throw-away line at the end of his speech.

Bush observed that all member nations "have a stake in the success of the world's newest democracies" but gave no signal that he was serious about trying to persuade his world partners to work with him in securing a peaceful transition in Iraq, which can prob-

ably be won only with their help. He and Secretary of State Colin Powell were reported to be lobbying behind the scenes for help in providing security for Iraqi elections. But aides indicated they had little hope of securing more than training assistance for Iraqi police, and debt relief, which had been promised in a U.N. resolution adopted last spring.

Indeed, Bush supporters scoffed at Democratic challenger John Kerry's assertions Monday that world leaders outside of the original coalition that backed the Iraq invasion are open to appeals for assistance now.

As insurgents returned this week to their grisly tactic of beheading noncombatant captives, security in Iraq has deteriorated to the point that no nation can be enthusiastic about sending its citizens there. Replacing Bush with Kerry likely would not change that. And yet... the Unit-



ed States can't give up on making Iraq safety and security an international project. It's not about retreating, as Bush hinted Kerry would do, but about prevailing. ... Bush apparently believes he can't risk projecting an image of

weakness right before an election he's trying to win on a record of making this country safer. How inconvenient for reality to intrude. Yet it has, and there's no time to waste in dealing with it.

Page 1 headlines during Iraq war true to mission

This is the fourth in a series of columns on the coverage by Stars and Stripes of the conditions in Iraq since April 2004, which was the first anniversary of the fall of Baghdad. The first three columns appeared in the June 28, July 27 and Aug. 30 editions.

Ombudsman



Joe Ungaro

This column deals with the headline and graphic displays on Page 1. Two hundred front pages from April through the end of the presidential conventions early this month were tracked and coded. The European, Pacific and Mideast editions were reviewed.

Where the Mideast and the European editions had the same headlines on Page 1, only one paper was counted. The Pacific edition always had at least one different headline from the European and/or Mideast edition and was tracked separately.

The goal was to determine the number, emphasis and variety of stories chosen for Page 1 display and the tone and quality of the headlines.

As a tabloid, which is physically half the size of the standard newspaper page, Stars and Stripes has faced complaints that it was "a sensational tabloid" because it used large headlines on crime stories on Page 1. This is the stereotype that comes from the approach of some metropolitan area tabloids. But a tabloid is, first and foremost, a convenient, easy-to-handle and easy-to-read format. It is also an ideal format for the military audience. Some tabloids use a mix of text and pictures with text starting on Page 1. Others are just pictures and headlines on Page 1. Stripes has designed and uses a format that tries to present variety on what's in the newspaper through headlines and pictures. And what was the tone and emphasis on the main Page 1 headline?

Page 1 of Stripes is a billboard for the news of the day. This review looks at Stripes' front pages in five ways. How many news items were featured on Page 1? What was the topic of the main headline? Was the topic chosen for news value or "sensationalism"? What was the total number and variety of news items featured on Page 1? And what was the tone

and emphasis of the Page 1 headlines?

Stories featured on Page 1: Seventy-one percent of the time there were six displays on Page 1; 16 percent of the time, 5; 12 percent of the time, 4; 10 percent of the time, 3; 7 percent of the time, 2; and, only once, 1. The look of Page 1 was consistent and attractive. Main headline: Military news, which would be the equivalent of "local news" for the typical hometown newspaper, dominated. Forty percent of the stories were stories of specific interest to military personnel. Two-third were a combination of positive and negative stories about how the Iraq war aftermath was affecting military personnel. One-third was significant coverage of non-war issues.

The most recent column in this series ("Stripes reporters had their own Iraq stories to tell") praised the efforts of the Stripes reporting staff to provide a dimension of the Iraq situation beyond the breaking news. The headline survey showed that the reporting effort was properly taken to the next level with significant attention on Page 1.

Breaking war action was the main story 27.5 percent of the time; national news was featured 12 percent of the time; foreign news 10 percent; and miscellaneous other, 10.5 percent.

Crime news, the typical fare of many tabloids, was included in the "all other" category, which totaled 20 stories. Only four of the 20 were crime stories. And all four were in the "Pacific" and a typical one (main headline and subhead) was: "20 sailors implicated in Guam drug probe" "Some will face

jailed; all to be kicked out of Navy."

News value of main topics: A review of all the main headlines showed much more emphasis on news value than "sensationalism." This means headlines consistently were declarative and not provocative. Some examples:

- "Kosovo 5 years later" "The U.S. military presence is now smaller, but the mission hasn't changed since 1999"
- "String of attacks kills about 100 in Iraq"

- "Hundreds of students held captive in Russia"
- "Saddam defiant in court"

- "Bush OKs 3.5 percent salary hike for troops" "How much does that mean for you? See the 2005 pay chart"
- "U.S. officials warn: Stay clear of Iraqi food" "Estimates say over 100 soldiers getting sick each week"

Variety of news on Page 1: Overall there were 1,183 headlines or pictures on Page 1 in 200 front pages reviewed. It was no surprise that 359 stories or 30.4 percent of headlines — at least one story a day and a second three out of four days — involved the Iraq war. The 359 represented 55 breaking news stories; 164 military (staff-produced); 93 foreign; and 47 national.

The breakdown of nonwar stories that compose the other 69.6 percent of the total showed variety and, no surprise, sports led the list. It was:

- Sports — 19.4 percent of the overall total

- Military (staff-produced) — 17.8 percent

- Entertainment/features — 17.3 percent

- National — 6.7 percent

- Foreign — 4 percent

- Miscellaneous other — 1.7 percent

- Business — 1.5 percent

- Disaster/crime — 1.2 percent

Headline tone and accuracy: The tone and text of the headlines reflected care in balancing informative, declarative and accurate — but not being dull and/or boring. In an exercise of nitpicking, I found less than a dozen that could have used a rewrite.

On the positive side, I found a good number of headlines that made you want to read the story while avoiding exaggeration and/or being provocative.

Those that stand out include:

- "Building the road to danger"
- "Combat stress: 'the silent enemy'"
- "Poker in a high-stakes environment"
- "Staying a step ahead"
- "Oprah takes stock of booming success"
- "Memory of late coach motivates softball team at Marine Forces"

In summary, the front pages in this report reflected the mission of being the hometown paper overseas for the military and care in the selection of the news items featured and the writing of the headlines.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 4th St., NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian (202) 462-6900; (402) 544-6595; or e-mail ombudsman@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

TSP striving to increase efficiency to lower fees

BY STEPHEN BARR

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Thrift Savings Plan is taking steps to operate more efficiently, steps that should lead to lower fees for the plan's 3.3 million participants, officials said Monday.

On average, investors in 2006 will save an estimated \$3.84 annually from the TSP's administrative costs.

That may sound like small change, but low fees are a key to TSP's popularity with government employees. Over the past decade, TSP has lured its participants much less in management and investment fees than major mutual funds charge in the private sector.

The average TSP participant this year will pay an estimated \$30.25 in administrative fees. Participant cost will drop to \$26.41 in 2006, according to projections released Monday.

The projections showed that the TSP, a 401(k)-type plan for civil service, postal and military personnel, continues to grow at an ever-faster pace as government employees put away money for retirement. TSP's assets should swell to \$14.1 billion by year's end, increasing to more than \$20 billion in 2006, officials estimated.

The estimates were part of a presentation to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board by executive director, Gary A. Amelio, showing that the TSP will come in at about \$6 million under budget this year and will attempt to cut operating costs by about \$11 million between fiscal 2005 and 2006.

The TSP plans to spend \$100.9 million in fiscal 2005 and has drawn up budget proposals that would reduce spending to \$94.9 million in fiscal 2005 and \$84.2 million in 2006, Amelio said.

The projected decreases grow out of decisions to set up a new TSP database, shift software maintenance from the Agriculture Department's National Finance Center to a contractor and to lower costs for answering telephone calls and printing forms.

Next week, the TSP plans to move its database from New Orleans, home of the National Finance Center, to Reston, Va., where TSP will operate a new mainframe computer. The \$2 million computer will allow TSP representatives to find answers more quickly to questions about accounts from telephone callers, Lawrence E. Stiffler, director of automated systems at TSP, said.

As soon as the mainframe is up and running, Stiffler said, TSP will begin a search for a disaster recovery site to permit quick turnarounds in the event bad weather or some other catastrophe forced the Reston center to shut down.

Last week, TSP participants were without access to their accounts for three days after the National Finance Center was closed because of the threat to New Orleans from Hurricane Ivan.

In fiscal 2005, the TSP plans to spend about \$10 million for a major communications effort announcing "lifecycle-style" accounts, which are designed for participants who do not have the time or knowledge to manage their accounts.

Under the proposal, participants would be asked to predict when they will start withdrawing retirement savings. For employees far from retirement, the investment strategy would be heavily weighted toward stocks. As an employee's "draw down" date approached, the strategy would become more conservative, or tilted toward fixed-income investments.

Bagging valve just temporary solution

Dear Tom and Ray:

I just bought a 1980 Subaru GLS wagon with a 1600 engine and an odometer showing 257,000 miles. OK, so I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer. The valve train rough when I bought any of the '80 buggs, but I figured, hey, if Tom and Ray can fix cars, it can't be that tough, right? Well, it's three months later, and I've had a lot of

pulses of fresh air into the catalytic converter to help burn up any unburned fuel that managed to get that far.

RAY: My brother used the past tense because we suspect the valve train is still a problem. But the nonfunctioning valve is not what's causing your engine to run rough. That's caused by a vacuum leak that has developed between the valve and the engine.

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

phone consultations with some very nice people who know a lot more about cars than I do. Turns out I have a bad anti-afterburn valve. Of course, the part I need has gone the way of the dodo bird. So, I stuffed a blue plastic Wal-Mart bag under the valve, and the engine smoothed right out. What are the consequences (besides the obvious fire hazard) of making this permanent?

— Tim

TOM: The consequences? Well, for starters, it's going to be hard to bring home your stuff from Wal-Mart now.

RAY: Actually, there are only two other consequences I can think of. One is that the repair is not going to last, and your problem will return. Think about it. If this was really a viable, long-term fix, we'd all be using Wal-Mart bags to fix our cars. The other problem is that you're going to be breathing burning plastic until the repair does fail. And if you think you're slow on the uptake now, just wait a few weeks.

There's a supple valve and the engine. There's a vacuum leak that has developed between the valve and the engine.

an airtight gasket in there. Your gasket has disintegrated. TOM: Gaskets sometimes disintegrate after 257,000 miles, believe it or not. That nose-melted Wal-Mart bag is serving as a temporary gasket. But you can easily make a new one.

RAY: Go to your favorite parts store and buy a piece of gasket material. It's cheap — a few bucks. Then remove the valve and trace the bottom of it onto the gasket material. Then cut it out, put it all back together, and we guarantee we'll be good for at least another 257, Tim.

TOM: That's 257 seconds, not thousands of miles.

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It." Send \$4.50 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of the Washington Post, c/o Car and Driver magazine, or e-mail them by visiting www.clickandclack.com or the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week High/Low		News	Last	Net Chg
107,533.1	5,238.47	Dow Jones Industrials	10,101.18	-115.25
3,212.73	2,650.66	Dow Jones Transportation	3,194.66	79.56
296.40	243.26	Dow Jones Utilities	294.08	-1.11
798.12	5,424.48	NASDAQ Composite	1,546.09	+84.66
1,278.88	984.38	Amex Index	1,254.88	-7.65
2,153.18	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,895	-38.47
686.23	490.36	S&P 500	1,113.56	-15.74
518.84	507.89	S&P MidCap	507.89	-1.00
1,012.42	982.13	Russell 2000	965.89	-11.83
11,317.14	9,955.20	DJ Wilshire 5000	38,861.63	-148.59

NYSE							
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Change	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Change	Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Lucrnt	29530	1.29	+0.07	Micro	76290	4.28	+3.14
Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Metrolia	21879	1234	+11.11	Smith	20966	30.80	-7.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11
Genzyme	19842	44.38	+1.11	Amgen	19842	44.38	+1.11

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	High	Low	Change	% YTD
Avond Industries	37	36.40	-0.38	-1.02
Arctic Slope	37	36.02	-0.78	-2.15
Boeing	37	32.00	+2.74	+8.54

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.2640
Japanese yen (Sept. 24)	107.00
South Korean won (Sept. 23)	11,160.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37681
British pound	1.5720
Canada (Dollar)	1.2942
Denmark (Krone)	6.5593
France (Euro)	6.5593
Germany (Euro)	1.2922
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7556
Hungary (Forint)	199.52
India (Rupee)	45.83
Iran (Shekel)	4.6803
Japan (Yen)	110.50
Norway (Krone)	0.9250
Philippines (Peso)	56.27
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.49
South Korea (Won)	114.28
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2129
Thailand (Baht)	41.8740
Taiwan (New Dollar)	1,490.0000

FOREIGN MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	High	Low	Change	% YTD
Fidelity Invest. Global	49.36	48.30	-0.34	-0.68
Fidelity Invest. Global	49.36	48.30	-0.34	-0.68
Fidelity Invest. Global	49.36	48.30	-0.34	-0.68
Fidelity Invest. Global	49.36	48.30	-0.34	-0.68
Fidelity Invest. Global	49.36	48.30	-0.34	-0.68

PRECIOUS METALS				
Name	High	Low	Change	% YTD
Gold	440.30	440.30	0.00	0.00
Silver	36.40	36.40	0.00	0.00

INTEREST RATES				
Name	High	Low	Change	% YTD
Prime rate	2.75	2.75	0.00	0.00
Discount rate	2.25	2.25	0.00	0.00
3-month bill	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00
3-month bill	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00
3-month bill	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00

cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Looking for recruits

By JUSTIN BACHMAN
The Associated Press

Executives are habitually on the hunt for greener career pastures, just like the rest of us. But at the upper echelons of corporate recruitment and hiring, there are some distinct mistakes this group can make, according to Connecticut-based career network firm ExecuNet Inc.

■ Interviewing without adequate insight. This doesn't just mean doing some research on a potential employee before the interviews — we all need to do that. Instead, learn about its problems and obstacles to its business strategy, research its competitors and past efforts, formulate potential solutions.

■ Demonstrating uncommon knowledge about a potential

employee or its competitors will help distinguish you from other candidates, said Dave Opton, ExecuNet's CEO.

■ Spending the bulk of your search online. This is akin to having all your eggs in a single basket. A successful job hunt requires several approaches: social networking, professional organizations, focused outreach to particular companies and their recruiters, plus the Internet, Opton said.

■ Overlooking the value of networking. Professional relationships tend to be the common thread through business transactions, and this is true also for landing new positions.

According to a recent ExecuNet survey, 41 percent of executives secured their most recent job through networking and 26 percent were recruited by a search firm.

Fake class scheme

CA SANTA ANA — Nearly a dozen former or current community college employees allegedly concocted off-campus classes in order to inflate enrollment and collect more than \$2 million in state funding, according to a newspaper report.

The alleged schemes have resulted at least 10 community college employees in Southern California who have been placed on trial or whose actions remain under investigation, The Orange County Register reported.

The newspaper's review found officials from the community colleges often collaborated with non-profit organizations, businesses and even public agencies to provide unregulated classes — some of which were never held.

In some cases, the employees kept the money for themselves.

Gay dad custody case

ID BOISE — The Idaho Supreme Court has ruled that sexual orientation should not be the basis for custody decisions, but still denied a gay father's bid for custody.

Gay-rights advocates hailed the decision as a guide for future custody cases, but expressed disappointment that it did not help Theron McGriff gain custody of his two daughters.

The court said in a prepared statement that sexual orientation should be considered for custodial purposes only if the orientation is shown to cause harm to the child.

"Sexual orientation, in and of itself, cannot be the basis for awarding or removing custody," the court said.

But in its 4-1 ruling, the Supreme Court said there was still sufficient evidence to support a county magistrate's 2002 conclusion that McGriff's ex-wife, Shawn Weingartner, was best suited for sole custody of the children.

Pack animal access

DC WASHINGTON — Seeking to head off environmental groups that want to limit access to federal lands, House lawmakers won approval of legislation to assure that people can continue to use pack and saddle animals in their visits to parks and wilderness areas.

With passage of the bill, said Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., of the House Resources Committee, the House is "preserving one of the most fundamental and truly historic ways to experience our public lands."

The legislation, passed by voice, assures that pack and saddle animals will have access to lands where a historic tradition exists to such use. Relevant secretaries are to issue rules to define the meaning of that historic tradition.

Church fair accident

MA BOSTON — A pair of improper bolts caused an amusement park ride to break apart at a church fair, killing one person and injuring two others, the state's commissioner of public safety said.

The accident happened Sunday on the Sizzler ride at St. Mary's Church and parochial school in Shrewsbury, 40 miles west of Bos-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ton.

Andrew R. Fohlin, 38, died after he was thrown from the ride and hit his head on the pavement. Two others were injured. All three were residents of a nearby state-run home for the mentally retarded.

Commissioner Thomas Gatzonis said the car in which Fohlin was seated was attached with two bolts — one was too small and the other had been altered, and neither met the manufacturer's specifications. The small bolt broke, causing the footrest and lap restraint to come loose, Gatzonis said.

Cigarettes stop thief

PA BETHLEHEM — A 62-year-old gas station cashier chased off a would-be thief by hurling cartons of cigarettes at him, police said.

The assailant entered the Texaco gas station on Stefeo Boulevard Tuesday wearing a T-shirt over his head and wielding a silver pen, police said.

The man told cashier Lorraine Roth to "open the cash register ... I don't want to have to kill you," according to police.

Roth then threw the cartons of cigarettes at the man until he ran off. Police later determined that the same man had robbed another convenience store in Allentown.



Looking for a bite

A trawler passes in the distance as vacationer Mark Spears, of Ohio, fishes for "anything that will bite" on the beach on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Kids cause fire

WY RIVERTON — Firefighters were close to containing a fire apparently sparked by children that blew out of control and destroyed dozens of vehicles, several outbuildings and tons of hay at a livestock barn.

Nine people, including seven firefighters, suffered minor injuries, officials said. Residents of about 80 homes were allowed to return home after being evacuated.

"I'm guessing about a million-dollar fire loss," Riverton Fire Marshal Matt Lee said. "It appears to be children being careless with fireworks," Lee said.

It was not immediately clear if any charges would be filed.

Porch collapse

IL CHICAGO — A three-story porch collapsed on Chicago's southwest side as three people were trying to steal a stove that was on it, authorities said.

Two men wounded in the collapse and a woman were in police custody but no charges had been filed, police said. Both of the men were hospitalized, one in critical and the other in serious condition.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the collapse.

Orangutan's new digs

HI HONOLULU — Rusti the orangutan was on his best behavior, as Honolulu Zoo officials announced he may finally be getting a new home more like his natural habitat.

A Big Island foundation presented a large gift to the popular primate during a news conference in front of the outdated gorilla cage he's been living in for the past seven years.

The \$100,000 donation from The Chelsea Foundation will be added to \$200,000 already contributed by the Orangutan Foundation International and the city toward building a new habitat at the zoo for Rusti.

Rusti arrived at the Honolulu Zoo in 1997 for what was to be a temporary stay after the Orangutan Foundation removed him from a private New Jersey zoo. Rusti had been living in unsanitary conditions and braving the New Jersey winter without heating.

Mad Tacker caught?

GA DALTON — Authorities say they've nailed The Mad Tacker.

Robert Holcomb had a sharp grudge against police and now he's accused of criminal damage for allegedly throwing nails on the roads in front of the police station and jail for more than six months.

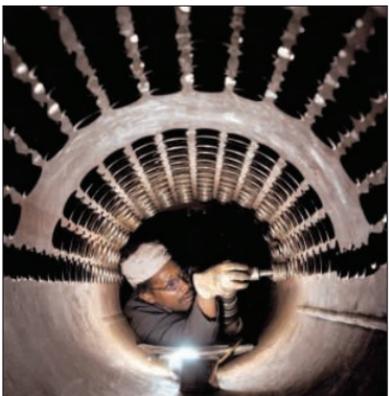
Holcomb, dubbed The Mad Tacker by police, is blamed for fattening tires of at least seven sheriff's patrol cars and seven personal vehicles of Whitfield County 911 Center employees.

"Sooner or later, he got just about everybody," said sheriff's Maj. John Gibson.

Holcomb, 35, was arrested after an officer spotted him dumping nails on a street near the county jail. He was charged with first-degree criminal damage to property, damaging government property, first-degree criminal trespass, littering and interference with government property.



Really into TV Matt Miller, assistant manager at Westcoast Fitness in East Bremerton, Wa., cleans television sets at the gym, while on TV a poker player studies his hand.



Close quarters Greg Beaver puts the finishing fit on small tubes connecting to a larger one inside an industrial boiler at Rentech Boiler Systems in Abilene, Texas.



Beautiful beginning

On the last evening of summer, residents of Oswego, N.Y., were given a colorful farewell to summer and the entrance of fall colors.



Native beauty

Wearing an elaborate headdress of pheasant and macaw feathers, Jorge Medina of San Jose, Calif., dances on the National Mall at the start of the Native Nations Procession to help dedicate the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.



Wagon bling

Dick Bekt, right, takes his great-grandson, Tyler, for a ride in his custom-made, motorized, monster Radio Flyer wagon in New London, Conn.



Leading the pack?

A groundhog stands in the path of a girls cross country race in Union Vale, N.Y. The critter eventually moved as the runners approached closer.

Fatal fishing fight

NY NEW YORK — A man died after becoming involved in a scuffle with another man while he was fishing at a pier in Brooklyn, police said.

The incident began when a man approached a unidentified 31-year-old man while he fished off of Canarsie Pier at Rockaway Parkway. The two got into a dispute and both of them fell into the water.

A third man, an unidentified 23-year-old, jumped into the water after them, along with off-duty 69th Precinct Capt. Daniel Carione, 37.

Carione recovered the second man, and held him until emergency workers took him to Brookdale Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition. Carione was taken to Jamaica Hospital and also was in stable condition.

The first man, also unidentified, was recovered by harbor police and taken to Brookdale Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The third man left the water by himself and refused medical attention.

Hospital lays off 45

SC ANDERSON — AnMed Health officials laid off 45 employees and reduced 14 others to part-time status in cost-saving measures at the hospital. The board of directors unanimously passed a budget that covers the opening of a new cancer center and women and children's hospital.

Hospital officials said about half the laid-off workers could find work at the new facilities next spring.

Recording train info

NE OMAHA — Union Pacific plans to attach digital cameras and microphones on its locomotives to record each trip and any accident that might happen along the way.

The Omaha-based company, which according to its Web site has more than 7,000 locomotives and is the largest railroad in North America, is in the process of finding a company to install the cameras and is working out details such as cost and how precisely the system would work.

A New York Times story published in July said the company failed to properly report fatal accidents along its tracks. Immediately after the article was printed, Union Pacific said it would develop a camera system, said company spokesman John Bromley.

The cameras would be mounted outside the engineer's cab and would be used with the event recorders, already on the company's locomotives, that track the actions of the engineer much like a black box on an airplane.

Debris cleanup at issue

AZ PHOENIX — Some Navajos say they want debris left from a 1956 collision of two airliners over the Grand Canyon removed, calling it long-neglected trash.

But federal officials aren't sure that the debris is from the collision of a TWA Super Constellation and United Airlines DC-7 that killed 128 people aboard the two planes.

"We're not in the position to look into this at this point," said Ted Lopatkievicz, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board. "With the aviation wreckage, I don't know if the airlines have any responsibility to clean it up."

Nearly 50 years after the accident, residents say a large airline tire remains embedded near charred limestone rock about 5,000 feet above the canyon's rivers on a plateau on Navajo land.

1,000 stings kill man

IN FORT WAYNE — A retired zoo director died after he was stung about 1,000 times by European yellow jackets when he fell onto their nest from a ladder while cleaning windows at his home.

Earl Wells, 75, had been in a coma at Lutheran Hospital since the Sept. 12 attack near Hunterstown, about 10 miles north of Fort Wayne.

Wells was the director of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo from its opening in 1965 until his retirement in 1994 and had served as a consultant in the design of other zoos around the country.

European yellow jackets swarmed Wells when the staphleider was standing on to wash windows collapsed onto their underground nest, the zoo said in a statement.

School district wins big

CA LOS ANGELES — A California school district won \$500,000 from The Broad Foundation, earning half of the nation's top prize in public education.

The Garden Grove Unified School District in Orange County was recognized by the foundation for improving student test scores while closing achievement gaps between white and minority students, as well as affluent and low-income students.

More than 100 urban districts nationwide were eligible for the \$1 million Broad Prize, which is awarded annually.

"We're very thrilled and gratified for being chosen," Garden Grove spokesman Alan Trudell said after an award ceremony in Los Angeles.

Barge traffic resumes

TN CHATTANOOGA — The Tennessee Valley Authority allowed barge traffic to resume on the Tennessee River after floodwater from Hurricane Ivan moved through the lake system. TVA stopped commercial traffic on the 652-mile river so it could lower reservoir levels for expected heavy rains from storms spawned by Ivan.

No charges in collision

WY CHEYENNE — No charges will be filed or citations issued in last month's chain collision on Interstate 80 that left at least four people dead and three others whose remains were never found presumed dead, authorities said. The investigation found that 36 vehicles with 66 people were involved in seven crashes along a foggy stretch of the highway near Buford between Cheyenne and Laramie.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie *** "Blue Moon" (1998) <i>Journal</i> Jason Lawrenske plays out and external pressures strain a couple's marriage.	Dr. Phil	The Munny	Nightline	2004 World Strongman Cup	30-Minute Meals	The Fairy OddParents
9:30 Sigma-Siemens Cat			The Brothers Garcia	Headline News	Totally NASCAR	Easy Entertaining-Chiarello Decorating Cents	The Brothers Garcia
10:00 Arthur (E)		Oprah Winfrey	Guiding Light	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Look Less	Headline News
10:30 The Simpsons Cat	Movie *** "Planet of the Apes" (2001, Science Fiction) Rick Walters, Tim Roth.	General Hospital	Wheel of Fortune	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	El News Live	Headline News
11:00 Sigma-Siemens Cat			ESPNews	PrimeTime Thursday		The King of Queens	Pacific Report
11:30 Stanley "Mylou's Problems" (E)		General Hospital	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		King of the Hill	Pacific Report
12:00 The Simpsons (E)		Headline News	King of the Hill	Headline News		Malcolm in the Middle	Headline News
12:30 The Simpsons (E)		Coming Attractions	Judge Judy	Headline News		The Apprentice	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" (1997) Lisa Storie.	Today Queen Latifah; John C. McGinley; "It's CopTime."	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	SportsCenter	Charm'd "Murphy's Luck"	The Apprentice
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)			Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)		Baseball Tonight	Aly McBeal "Forbidden Fruits"	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)
14:00 Stuart Little			Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)				
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "The X-Files" (1998, Science Fiction) David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson. FBI agents Mulder and Scully probe the existence of aliens.	Bobo Loco Tunes	Pacific Report	Headline News	Balloon Bosing	Any Day Now "It's Your Problem, Not Mine"	Pacific Report
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Robo Loco Tunes	The Tonight Show	Headline News		ER "Under Control"	The Tonight Show
15:30 Full House "Baby Love"		Robo Loco Tunes	The Tonight Show	Channel One			
16:00 Pokémon		The Fairy OddParents	Late Show	The Early Show			
16:30 Yo-Gi-Oh!		The Brothers Garcia	Late Show		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Black, White and Blue"	Access Hollywood
17:00 Hey Arnold!	True Hollywood Story	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Headline News	Inside the NFL	The Simpsons "Pyromolten"	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Headline News	ESPNews	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Show
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Backstories	ESPNews	Headline News	FOX News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	The Late Late Show	PrimeTime Thursday	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	The Crocodile Hunter "Wild in the USA" Cougar search.	Headline News
19:00 ChalkZone Snap is chas'd. Weekenders (E)	Movie *** "Charlie's Angels" (2000, Action) Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore.	King of the Hill	Malcolm in the Middle	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
20:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		The Apprentice	The Apprentice	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
20:30 All That Singer Cray Mack	Movie *** "Thirteen Days" (2000, Drama) Kevin Costner, Steve Greenwood, Steven Seagal. Americans and Soviets count on the brink of war in 1962.	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
21:00 Lizzie McGuire "Sunset"		Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
22:00 Switched "Matt and Miko"		Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (E)	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe		The Tonight Show	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
23:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "White Man Can't Jump" (1992)	Late Show	Late Show	Late Show	Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News
23:30 Home Improvement					Tommy Davis Cap Semifinal Round - Belarus vs United States. Singles match A.	Friends	Headline News

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
00:00 Hey Arnold! Hot Date	Movie *** "White Man Can't Jump" (1992) Woodruff Johnson, Wesley Snipes.	11:30 Late Show	Zoboomafo! "Earl Hest"	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	JoJo's Circus
00:30 Rocket Power		Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC Nightly News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		College Football Bowling Great at Northern Illinois (Live)	ChalkZone Snap is chas'd.	ABC World News Tonight		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	ChalkZone Snap is chas'd.
1:30 Rugrats Stu gets amnesia.	Movie *** "Barbarella" (1969) Jean Seberg.	PowerPuff Girls "Och'Eye"	All That Singer Cray Mack	CBS Evening News		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
2:00 ChalkZone Snap is chas'd.		PowerPuff Girls "Och'Eye"	All That Singer Cray Mack	Headline News		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
2:30 The Weekenders (E)	Coming Attractions	All That Singer Cray Mack	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Countdown With Keith Oberman		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
3:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Movie *** "Charlie's Angels" (2000, Action) Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
3:30 All That Singer Cray Mack		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
4:00 Lizzie McGuire "Sunset"		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "Thirteen Days" (2000, Drama) Kevin Costner, Steve Greenwood, Steven Seagal. Americans and Soviets count on the brink of war in 1962.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
6:30 Blair's Class "Prized Item"		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
7:00 Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Unlabeled Heart" (1993, Drama) Christina Slater, Marisa Tomei.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
7:30 Amazing Animal Videos		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
8:00 Lilo & Stitch "M. Stench"		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
8:30 Teams Supremo (E)	Movie *** "Mrs. Doubtfire" (1993, Comedy) Robin Williams, Sally Field, Pierce Brosnan. An estranged dad poses as a nanny to be with his children.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
9:30 Kim Possible "Yo-Yo Run"		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
10:00 Teen Titans		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
11:00 DragonBall GT	Movie *** "Roxanne" (1987, Comedy) Steve Martin, Daryl Hannah, Rick Rossovich.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
11:30 T. Alan: Evolution		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
12:30 Yulestern Frustrated Lil'	Movie *** "Phenomenon" (1996, Drama) John Travolta, Faye Dunaway. A small-town mechanic is gifted with unusual mental powers.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
13:00 Endurance A New Twist (E)		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
13:30 Scott's Safari (E)		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
14:00 Animal Kidding		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
14:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
15:00 Most Extreme: Births Extreme	Movie *** "Point of No Return" (1997) Neely Flynn, El Ni. Nuclear research involves from an investigation into a death.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
15:30 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
16:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
17:00 Hey Arnold!	Movie *** "Double Jeopardy" (1989) Tommy Lee Jones. A woman plots revenge after she is framed for a murder.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
17:30 Rocket Power		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
18:30 Rugrats		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
19:00 Movie "Motocrossed" (2001) Adventure! Alana Austin, Mary McCormack. A car accident turns men on a collision course.		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
20:00		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
20:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
21:00		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
21:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
22:00		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
22:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
23:00		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)
23:30		My Life as a Teenage Robot	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Hannity & Colmes		Charm'd "My Three Witches"	Weekenders (E)

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FACES

Buy lunch with an 'Idol' on eBay

"American Idol" finalist Diana DeGarmo is available for lunch.

Proceeds from an auction for the lunch will go to the Partnership Against Child Abuse, a program of the Children's Advocacy Center based in Huntsville, Ala. The auction is being held on the Web site eBay.

The 17-year-old from Snellville was the runner-up to Fantasia Barrino in the popular Fox television singing competition. DeGarmo has been touring with other "Idol" alums, and she hopes to have her new full-length CD out by the end of the year.

The lunch will be held in Los Angeles or New York. DeGarmo has one year to make good on the dining opportunity, although she'll make every effort to work with the auction winner, according to the auction instructions.

Griffith to unveil statue for show

Andy Griffith comes home to Mount Airy, N.C., on Friday when he unveils a TV Land statue that's a copy of the one that the cable network placed in Raleigh last fall.

The statue shows Sheriff Andy Taylor (Griffith) and his son, Opie (Ron Howard), from the '60s sitcom "The Andy Griffith Show" walking to the fishing hole.

It will be placed outside the Andy Griffith Playhouse, which once was the Rockford Street Elementary School that Griffith attended.

Griffith's visit will mark the start of the 15th annual Mayberry Days festival. Fans of the show come in search of Mayberry, the fictional town that TV producers say was based on a combination of Griffith's hometown of Mount Airy, nearby Pilot Mountain and other areas of North Carolina.

Israeli writer Oz nabs Ovidius prize

Amos Oz, a leading Israeli writer and a well-known peace activist, has been awarded the Ovidius prize by Romania's Writers Union.

He won the \$10,000 prize because of his literary merit and his peace work. Ezechiel Uricaru, president of the Writers Union, said Tuesday. He also said Oz's writings demonstrate interethnic tolerance and devotion to the concept of freedom of expression.

Oz is best known for "My Michael," one of his many novels. He also has written several short stories and numerous articles on the conflict in Israel. His family emigrated to Israel from Russia and Poland.

Performers for AMAs announced

R&B singer Usher, whose album "Confessions" steamed up the charts with songs about sex, affairs and breakups, will perform at the American Music Awards.

Usher has a leading four AMA nominations. The awards will be presented Nov. 14 in Los Angeles.

Kanye West, Josh Groban, Jessica Simpson, Toby Keith, Kenny Chesney and Gretchen Wilson also are scheduled to perform, it was announced this week.

Jimmy Kimmel will host the show, to air live on ABC.

Shatner filming in Kirk's 'hometown'

Capt. James T. Kirk came home to Riverside, Iowa, this week.

William Shatner, who played the commander of the starship USS Enterprise in the '60s "Star Trek" series, arrived Tuesday to hold auditions for four small parts in a low-budget, sci-fi movie he wrote with "Star Trek" co-creator Gene Roddenberry.

The working title of the movie is "Invasion Iowa." Shatner called the film "his baby," and said he's dreamed of putting the story on the big screen for 30 years.

Although Kirk's hometown was never mentioned in the TV series, Gene Roddenberry, the show's creator and executive producer, wrote in "The Making of Star Trek" that Kirk was "born in a small town in the state of Iowa."

The Riverside City Council picked up on the idea in March 1985, declaring a site behind what used to be the town's barbershop the "future birthplace" of Kirk.



Shatner

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Betting on Bettany

Will 'Wimbledon' turn the actor into a star?

By LUANNE LEE

Scripts Howard News Service

British actor Paul Bettany thinks it was his role as the screaming Geoffrey Chaucer in "A Knight's Tale" that first captured America's attention. Bettany, 33, followed that up playing the mysterious friend in "A Beautiful Mind" and the ship's surgeon in "Master and Commander."

But it's his latest role, as the aging tennis champion in "Wimbledon," which opened in the States on Sept. 17 — that will probably make him a star.

Bettany's father is an actor, his mother is a singer, and he's married to Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Connelly (whom he met on "A Beautiful Mind"), he's the father of a 1-year-old boy and stepfather of a 7-year-old boy.

He talks about his career and life:

What he likes about acting:

"I have the impulse it's probably a sort of awful and childish want to entertain people, I suppose. I also get to learn things, lots of different things. I get to learn little bits of skill — a little bit of the cello or a bit about the natural sciences or a little bit about tennis. When the writing's good I get to learn a little bit about people, so I guess that's what."

Uneasy in his shoes:

"I still think that somebody's going to come and knock on the door and say, 'I'm sorry we meant Paul Bettany,' and I go, 'Of course, I'm really sorry. Here's all the stuff back.' I'm not convinced that it's not all going to go wrong."

Finding roles:

"What I don't like, it's very recently happened. You get offered a job, it happened by mistake on 'A Beautiful Mind.' They offered me the job and [director] Ron Howard hadn't read me. I remember being really nervous because I thought, 'You don't know what you've bought. You're going to see me work and then go, 'Oh, no, let's sack him.'"

"Whereas if I've auditioned for somebody I kind of think it's their fail, if I'm not what they want (he laughs) because they chose me."

Critical moment in his life:

"The death of somebody very close to me. Obviously for every human being, their first real contact with death is awesome, and I mean that in a non-L.A. sense of the word. A shock." (Bettany says it was a relative but won't say who. His younger brother died in a fall when he was 9.)

Maturing through marriage and children:

"It gives you the most incredible perspective. It's funny actually, when you experience death, you're convinced that that's given you per-



Paul Bettany and his wife, Jennifer Connelly, attend the world premiere of "Wimbledon" at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, Calif., on Sept. 13.

spective, everything seems really clear. In actual fact, what made everything really clear — it's actually slightly warped because it's about fear and it's selfish — birth is actually what gave me real perspective."

What observing death taught him:

"I'm a materialist in the sense that I accept the things I can touch and see. I don't believe in life after death for the same reason I don't believe in Santa Claus, and such thoughts and emotions just end? How can that end? And we're worried about ourselves. You mean our personality is just going to stop and not continue?"

It can't be. So it makes complete logical sense to me that people create [God]. But facing it as a material-

ist, I think that's the bitter pill you swallow in life. And everything can be a daily heartbreak; the thought that one day your children will die. That face that fills you with joy, it too will end."

How he got off drugs:

"I just quit. I couldn't do the 12 steps, [because of the religious aspect] I did it really logically. I stopped and started again a lot before I stopped. I wanted to get myself together and fall in love and have kids."

Once I stopped, life started getting better pretty immediately. It coincided with me getting a film called "Gangster No. 1" which was the start of a film career for me. And I was straight and able to do a good job."

KRT

Horoscope

Big Daddy Jupiter pays a visit to Libra, where he'll stay for the next year. This transit brings luck to anyone who's trying to make relationships work — couples, groups and teams are like glue that fly south in a "V" formation. The momentum they create together carries the group much faster than any one goose could go alone.

Joyce Jilison



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 24). New social connections help you make your way in the year! You are widely accepted and loved, and having more friends helps you see the way to financial and romantic opportunity. The exceptional work you turn in this November puts you in the spotlight. A promotion and more money follow. Singles feel secure with loving Leo and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're first in line and will have the rewards of the early bird. On days like this, you wonder why anyone would ever be late! Saying "good-bye" is something you've got to do tonight. Be thoughtful and brief; don't drawl it out.

Taurus (April 20-May 20).

The stars give you the chance to reinforce to the world who you are. Your decency causes you to automatically respond correctly and kindly when things arise. Games of chance are featured tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Everywhere you go, you bring a jovial mood and a joke or anecdote. Though few may say it out loud, your effervescent personality is appreciated. That's why you'll be invited to socialize with the "it" crowd.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Somewhere between the conscious and the unconscious is the limitless, childlike state of mind where everything and anything is possible. That's the part to nurture today. What you believe will happen possibly will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

That person who has really come to depend on you is probably on the

verge of taking advantage, as far as you're concerned. You'll find subtle ways to get your message across without causing too many waves.

LIBRA (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Use your organizing skills for the good of a group, and everybody wins. Being of service is always a lucky move. Pay attention to your reservations. When not growing your intuition ever get you anywhere good?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

It's a pleasure to give yourself over to your creative inspiration. If your idea is rejected initially, that only means it needs more work. Solve repair and property problems. Big profits are made from little but consistent efforts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Today is about trial and error, so lighten up on yourself. Failure is just a signal that your current method is not going to work right now. There's nothing personal or shameful about that, unless you choose to see it that way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Without risk, there is no reward. If you later find out you're in something over your head, you'll have time tonight to think things over. Loved ones won't judge you, so it's safe to talk about what you're going through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Legal issues play a part now. Any arrangement that involves a contract or implies an unspoken agreement has legal implications. Get everything in writing. Playing the "I thought you said" game could cost you money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Developments in a key relationship will make you feel at ease. Now, you can think of yourself for a change. It's a challenge to get any work done, unless your job relies heavily on chatting up the customers and being jovial.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

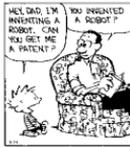
You're down on yourself again. Take the role of the loving parent to your own fragile feelings. You are as deserving of love as any soul on the planet. Let your mind synthesize, and your life will transform.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



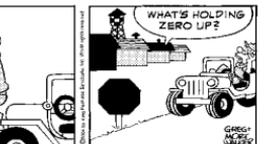
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Forkrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
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45	46	47				48	49				
50						51				52	
53						54				55	

Across

- 1 The whole ball of wax
- 4 Serve as umpire
- 8 Jet forth
- 12 Meadow
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 50 percent (Pret.)
- 15 Mount —
- 17 Bridge position
- 18 Put aside
- 19 Buy now, pay later
- 21 Author Fleming
- 22 Mount —
- 26 Watergate woe
- 29 Foundation
- 30 History time
- 31 Relaxation
- 32 Aachen article
- 33 Willander of tennis
- 34 Rocks, at the bar
- 35 Glutton
- 36 Paludal terrain
- 37 Mount —
- 39 Young fellow
- 40 Playground pastime
- 41 Inclined to be stressful?
- 45 — hat?
- 48 Mount —
- 50 PC symbol
- 51 Con
- 52 Phony story
- 53 Barbershop call
- 54 Green growth
- 55 Drinky

Down

- 1 Charitable gift
- 2 Walesa of Poland
- 3 Victoria, for one
- 4 Pugilist's surface
- 5 "Stormy Weather" composer
- 6 Grant foe
- 7 Intermediate
- 8 See-through
- 9 Shell-game need
- 10 Type squares
- 11 Humor
- 16 — New York in June, ...
- 20 Become one
- 23 Within reach
- 24 Doggie-bag contents
- 25 Poet Ogden
- 26 Muumuu accessories
- 27 Apiece
- 28 On the brink
- 29 Plead
- 32 Chart
- 33 "Call Me —" grp.
- 35 Bkale-sale
- 36 "Chances Are" singer
- 38 Be frugal
- 39 Catalogues
- 42 "Damn Yankees" vamps
- 43 Eye part
- 44 Trio from Connecticut?
- 45 Crib
- 46 Expert
- 47 Bagel topper
- 49 Half of dos

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	C	A	M	C	H	A	S	D	I	S
L	O	C	I	L	O	L	L	O	D	E
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M	A	D		T	H	A	N	A	N	O

9-24

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G K F T C R J R J P G.
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals O

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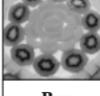
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Roethlisberger starting to build future

Steelers QB hoping to be better than past rookies, like Bradshaw

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger knows one thing: His first NFL start can't be much worse than those of the Pittsburgh Steelers' last three rookie starting quarterbacks, including one named Terry Bradshaw.

Roethlisberger was drafted No. 11 in April to be the Steelers' quarterback of the future, only to see that future arrive much more quickly than either he or the Steelers anticipated.

With starter Tommy Maddox (torn elbow ligament) out at least six weeks and backup Charlie Batch (knee) out for the season, Roethlisberger will become the first Steelers rookie quarterback in 34 years to start as early as the third game of the season.

The last to do so? Bradshaw, a Hall of Famer whose debut shouldn't be hard for Roethlisberger to top. Bradshaw was only 4-for-16 for 70 yards in a 19-17 loss to Houston in the 1970 opener, a performance the No. 1 draft pick replicated numerous times while throwing six touchdown passes and 24 interceptions as a rookie.

"I'm just approaching it as a chance to play football, starting again," Roethlisberger said of his Sunday start at Miami.

"Unfortunately it had to come at the expense of someone getting hurt. You never

want that. But you have to be able to step up when your name is called."

The only other Steelers rookie QBs to start since then didn't do much better. Mike Kruczek was the only one to win, going 5-for-12 for 58 yards and an interception in a 23-6 victory over Cincinnati in 1976. Bobby Brister was 12-for-33 for 191 yards in a 24-22 Monday night loss to Cincinnati in 1986, then started only once more until winning the starting job in 1988.

Kruczek not only won his debut, but his first nine NFL starts — though there possibly should be an asterisk involved. With Bradshaw injured, Kruczek was mostly asked to hand the ball to dual 1,000-yard running backs Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier and get out of the way. He also was supported by arguably the best defense in NFL history, one that had five shutouts and allowed only 28 points in those nine games.

These Steelers aren't adopting a "Let's save the rookie's attitude like those 1976 Steelers did, if only because they don't feel it is necessary. Roethlisberger showed what he could do by throwing two touchdown passes in less than two quarters after Maddox was hurt in a 30-13 loss Sunday in Baltimore.

"He has all the attributes of being a great quarterback in the league," wide receiver Plaxico Burress said Wednesday. "He can throw the ball 70 yards in the air,

he can make all the throws. I think he is going to be just fine."

So does Hines Ward, who leads the NFL with 250 yards receiving. He successfully adjusted to a quarterback change two September ago when Maddox took over for Korell Stewart, but he said changing quarterback during the season can be difficult.

"It's tough but, at the same time, you've got to be disciplined about it," he said. "If I go out there and run my routes, it's up to the quarterback to put the ball in my hands. I can't go out there and try to compensate for Ben. When you do that, turnovers start to happen."

"I just do my job, regardless of who the signal caller is."

Former All-Pro guard Alan Faneca was criticized for saying he "wasn't excited" about the change, but Faneca insisted he wasn't being critical of the rookie.

"What is there to be excited about, your starting quarterback being hurt in the second game?" Faneca said. "I have confidence in Ben. I saw him today while I was working out and I told him, 'The comment had nothing to do with you.' ... I definitely don't think it's a desperate situation."

Neither does Roethlisberger, the former Miami, Ohio, star who set numerous Mid-American Conference passing records. He knows a Dolphins defense that has allowed the second-fewest yards in the league will throw a lot at him, but he feels ready for it.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger will become the first Steelers rookie quarterback in 34 years to start as early as the third game of the season.

"The biggest thing is not necessarily how I play, but that we win. That's my No. 1 goal," Roethlisberger said. "I could be the worst quarterback out there, but if we come out with a victory, that's all that matters to me."

Mike Kruczek could tell him all about that.

RB James held out, upgraded

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts running back Edgerrin James was upgraded from doubtful to questionable for this week's game against Green Bay despite missing Wednesday's practice with a strained hamstring.

Coach Tony Dungy said James

worked out in the early but was held out of the afternoon practice. Dungy said Thursday's practice could help clear up James' playing status.

"I would not anticipate him playing, but if he practices tomorrow, that would be a step toward playing," Dungy said. "If he can't practice, that will tell us something else."

James was injured on a 30-yard touchdown run that sealed the Colts' 31-17 victory at Tennessee on Sunday. After the game, James said he was fine. But an MRI exam on Monday revealed damage, and Dungy said it was doubtful he would play.

Less than four hours later, James was running through light drills and said he still hoped to play against the Packers.

The Colts (1-1) were making contingency plans, though James' name doesn't start. Dominic Rhodes will. Rhodes rushed for 1,104 yards — an NFL record for

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's medical staff, are listed for complete injury report provided by the NFL.

49ers: RB Kevin Barlow (knee) practiced Wednesday, questionable for Sunday.

Falcons: RB Warwick Dunn (knee) did not practice Wednesday, questionable for Sunday.

Packers: QB Carl Powell (knee) underwent arthroscopic surgery.

Titans: RB Derrick Taylor (knee) out 7-10 weeks.

Titans: RB Deion Sanders (hamstring) practiced Wednesday, questionable for Sunday.

undrafted rookies — when he replaced James for the final 10 games of the 2001 season.

"I don't know what's going to happen. Edgess says he's feeling great," Rhodes said. "He knows I'm excited, I want to get that chance and I'm ready to help out."

Doctors clear Brees to play

SAN DIEGO — The only time Drew Brees got a headache on Wednesday was when he recalled what recently happened in the San Diego Chargers in Denver.

"The last two years we haven't played very well up there," Brees said shortly after declaring himself ready to start Sunday's road game against the AFC West rival Broncos.

Brees was cleared by the team's medical staff three days after receiving a mild concussion in last week's 34-28 home loss to the New York Jets, and took his regular number of snaps in practice.

"Today was a lot better," said Brees, who was in for 12 plays after getting hurt, even throwing a 33-yard touchdown pass to Tony Stewart.

"From not doing anything Monday or Tuesday, obviously getting back throwing, today, maybe just a little lethargic in the beginning. But once I got going it was fine."

The Chargers have won only 11 times in Denver since 1960, and only twice in the last 10 years.

Johnson angry over Vermeil remark

By DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Larry Johnson reacted sharply to Dick Vermeil's comments that the seldom-used Kansas City Chiefs running back "take the diapers off" if he plays this week in place of injured Priest Holmes.

Johnson, a first-round draft pick out of Penn State, might be pressed into action Sunday against Houston if Holmes is still hobbled by a sore ankle. He has expressed his unhappiness over not playing, and on Wednesday dismissed the suggestion that Vermeil was trying to motivate him with comments made in his weekly news conference.

"That's not how I've been raised, and I don't need no motivation from anybody. I'm self-motivated because my father taught me to be that way."

Johnson has played sparingly behind Holmes, even dropping to third team behind Derrick Blueylock Larry Johnson, his father, is defensive line coach at Penn State.

"I don't really listen to that kind of stuff," the younger Johnson said of Vermeil's comments. "If he can't say something in my face, that's how I feel. It don't mean nothing to me."

Vermeil has criticized Johnson in the past for a casual approach toward preparation. But in the remark when asked about the possibility of Holmes missing Sunday's game.

"If I need motivation, I'll talk to my father. I don't need another grown man telling me I need to take the diapers off. That's not how I've been raised, and I don't need no motivation from anybody."

Larry Johnson

Kansas City Chiefs running back

Vermeil, whose team (0-2) has already been beset by distractions and injuries, said the remark "just popped into my scrambled head."

"He's got some pressure on him now because if Priest doesn't play, he's going to be carrying a load, and it's a lot of responsibility that so far he has a way to go to prove he can handle it," Vermeil said. "And I'm looking forward to giving him the opportunity if Priest can't play."

Although the comment was made in jest, "in a way, there's a little truth to it," Vermeil said.

"I like Larry and I see his talent. And I've spent more time with Larry Johnson than all my roster combined in the last two years, and so has everybody else in this building. And sooner or later, he's going to recognize that," Vermeil said.

Vermeil made it clear the day Johnson was drafted that he would have preferred to take a defensive player. But Holmes was coming off hip surgery, and the organization decided it needed insurance at running back.

Last season, Johnson had 20

carries for 85 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown run.

"Yes, it's a little frustrating when they bring you here and they can't tell you whether you're going to play or you're not going to play," Johnson said. "That's just how I feel. By no means I'm going to stop going hard here and here hard every day in practice. It's just something that's frustrating right now and would be to anybody who's in my position."

Vermeil said he understands Johnson's frustration.

"The kid wants to play football badly. He loves to play," Vermeil said. "But in this league they just don't automatically retire Priest Holmes."

"He has all the talent in the world," Vermeil said of Johnson, "and sooner or later, he'll have his opportunity to take advantage of it."

Asked if the statement would have an impact on his relationship with the coach, Johnson said,

"It affects a lot of things and a lot of things to him and me to figure that out. There's a lot of things going on that I want to address but I want to wait to the right time for me to do that."

Edwards has Jets flying high after perfect opening

BY ANDREA ADELSON
The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — For the last three years, Herman Edwards spent his by-the-week working long hours, trying to fix the problems that plagued his slow-starting New York Jets.

He showed up to work alone on weekends while players and coaches took a break, refusing to rest until he figured out how to save the season. It rallied in 2001 and 2002, when the Jets failed to make the playoffs.

Another slow start last season turned into a disaster. After opening 0-4, the Jets went 6-10. So Edwards hatched a plan. He would make his team younger. He would make training camp harder. He would will his team to 2-0.

So at the first team meeting six months ago, the coach announced his short-term goal.

"We only had two games in September," Edwards said. "I could load up my ammunition, everything for two games. It's just like that was the season for me, for at least two games. We got to come out of here 2-0."

After wins against Cincinnati and San Diego, the Jets are 2-0 for the first time under Edwards and the second time in 11 years.

Now Edwards can take the by-the-weekend off. Is his reward? Going to the Nevada-San Diego State game to see his son, Marcus, play receiver for the Aztecs.

"I actually get to see my son play a football game, which is pretty special for me," Edwards said.

This season could turn into something special as well. The next three games are against winless teams: Miami, Buffalo and San Francisco. It is possible the Jets could be 5-0 before their game at New England on Oct. 24.

But no one is thinking ahead right now. Edwards is just pleased he accomplished one of his goals.

"We've never done that around here," Edwards said. "We've never had games in the bank. We're always using a credit card, trying to get out of debt. Credit card's paid in full now. I'm looking at the 14-game season, and now what can we do? That's what we have to look at, see how many we can win."

Before presenting his 2-0 plan to the team, he met with several team leaders to explain exactly what he wanted to do. Everyone was on board. From that moment on, every Jets player knew they had to start 2-0.

"Every person, if you can ask them one thing that they remember from the beginning of offseason training to now — I think everybody had 2-0 in their heads," running back Curtis Martin said. "His focus became our focus, and that's what makes good teams."

It also helps that Edwards decided he needed to rely more on

Martin, who leads the league in rushing after two games with 315 yards. Chad Pennington is healthy and started his first career season opener against the Bengals, making it easier for the Jets to get continuity with their quarterback.

The defense is entirely revamped under new coordinator Donnie Henderson. Edwards dumped aging veterans Mo Lewis, Marvin Jones, Sam Garnes and Aaron Beasley and has infused youth everywhere: rookie Erik Coleman starts at safety, rookie Jonathan Vilma will start at linebacker in place of the injured Sam Cowart, and second-year player Victor Hobson also starts at linebacker, while rookie Derrick Strait is the nickel back.

With all the new faces, the attitude of the team is different.

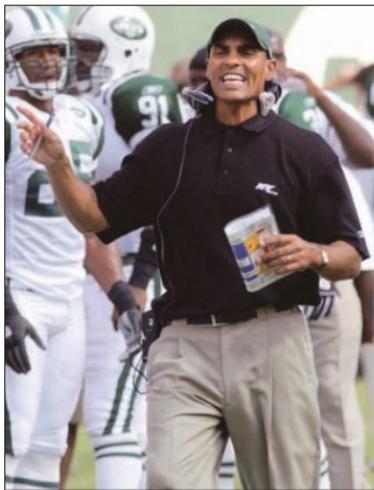
Martin constantly says the leadership is just better this year.

After losing seven games last season by seven points or less, the Jets have won both their games by close margins this year.

"With the new attitude we have, we expect to win," Pennington said. "We don't expect to sit back and say, 'Here we go again.'"

"There is a greater expectation that when adversity does strike, it is not the time to put your head down and sulk. It is time to do something about it."

Even young players are allowed a voice, and have pumped



New York Jets coach Herman Edwards' team is 2-0 for the first time in its tenure and only the second time in 11 years.

up the enthusiasm with their exuberance.

"The veterans, the coaches, they accepted us and they told us they expect us to play and they expect us to compete," Vilma said. "They said we're not rookies after a couple games, we're going to go out there and keep playing long. Now we're one of them."

The Jets have started 2-0 seven previous times in team history.

Only once did they make the playoffs — in 1968, their Super Bowl winning season. Edwards knows they have a long way to go before the season ends.

So what is the next short-term goal? Edwards refuses to say. But one thing is clear: the fast start could be huge.

"We got 14 games left now to find out what kind of team we are," Edwards said.

Aging Testaverde thriving under new circumstances

BY JAIMM ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Vinny Testaverde could be retired now — maybe even starting a second career in the high-paying, tackle-free world of broadcasting.

But he just couldn't imagine himself in a suit instead of pads, not when he thought he could still help an NFL team. So he reinitiated with his former coach Bill Parcells in Dallas to compete for the starting quarterback job.

Good call, Vinny.

Two games into the season, Testaverde is entrenched as the Cowboys' starter, and he's the NFL's passing leader with 677 yards.

Having already earned the admiration of teammates, fans and team owner Jerry Jones, next up is the chance to impress a national audience Monday night.

While Testaverde is leery of the Washington Redskins and their blitzing defense, there's another aspect of the game that concerns him.

"It's past my bedtime," he said Wednesday, smiling.

With his 41st birthday looming, Testaverde is having fun using his age as a punch line. He thinks it has been an asset on the field, too.

"We assume people are going to blitz us because we have an old quarterback," Testaverde said. "But if you're able to



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Vinny Testaverde, 40, is the NFL's passing leader with 677 yards.

make plays when they blitz, then people stop blitzing. I'd say we've hit probably 90 percent already. ... I can only remember one incomplection."

No, that last line wasn't a joke about a foggy memory. In fact, what Testaverde remembers from the last 17 seasons in the NFL is a big reason why he's thriving now.

Knowing how to take care of his body has enabled him to make the most of an arm Parcells says will be NFL-caliber for another 20 years. His understanding of the game made it easier for him to take over when incumbent Quincy Carter was surprisingly cut four days into training camp.

It also helps that he's secure enough in his relationship with Parcells to stand up

for himself when getting chewed out, such as after he threw interceptions on three straight late drives in a close game against Cleveland last Sunday.

Having thrown nearly as many interceptions as touchdowns in his career, Testaverde also has learned how to shake off bad passes and come back with a gem — like the deep ball to Terry Glenn that moved the Cowboys from their 26 to the Browns 37 at the 3-minute warning, a play that went a long way toward sealing the victory.

It's also telling that Parcells trusted Testaverde enough to call that play under those circumstances.

"I'm confident he can throw that ball pretty much all the time," Parcells said.

Fans who were booing after the third pickoff went back to cheering. Testaverde said he understood how they felt. He also said, "Thank you, defense," realizing how much he would've been in blame if Dallas had blown that game.

While Parcells already had faith in Testaverde, Jones is gaining it quickly.

Jones is so thrilled that he's making comparisons with 1998 — only not to the Jets who came within a game of the Super Bowl thanks to Testaverde, Parcells and another current Cowboy, Keyshawn Johnson, but to that year's Dallas team, the last featuring Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith in their prime.

"He's playing at a very high level, exceeding my expectations," Jones said.

"We've got somebody who, with time and guys open, can throw the ball accurately. I'd certainly like to have a couple of them back last week, but that happens to everybody."

The Cowboys never expected to throw 85 passes over the first two games. But they were trying to play catchup against Minnesota in the opener, then Cleveland came out stacked against the run.

Parcells would like to run more, but he's glad to know he can rely on the passing of Testaverde, the blocking of his line and the receiving of Johnson, Glenn, Antonio Bryant and emerging tight end Jason Witten.

"I think we have some weapons," Parcells said. "I think we can spread the field."

With 355 yards against the Vikings and 322 against the Browns, Testaverde became the oldest player in league history with consecutive 300-yard games. He also joined Don Meredith as the only Dallas passer to do it. Meredith did it so long ago (November 1963) that it happened on the Sundays before and after Testaverde was born.

Testaverde may savor his accomplishments one day, maybe even broadcasting a Cowboys game. Now, though, he's more concerned with figuring out why all his long drives have produced just four touchdowns and two field goals.

"Yards are great," he said. "Points are better." Spoken with experience.

Razorbacks pass over rushing this season

BY JAY HUGHES

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — For the past two seasons, Arkansas quarterback Matt Jones has directed an offense that led the Southeastern Conference in rushing.

This year, with Jones the only returning offensive starter, the Razorbacks have changed their approach. Now they lead the SEC in passing.

Coach Houston Nutt said in the preseason that the offense would open up this year to keep defenses from stacking the line to stuff the run. He's kept his word, and it seems to have worked in wins over two nonconference opponents and a two-point loss to No. 5 Texas.

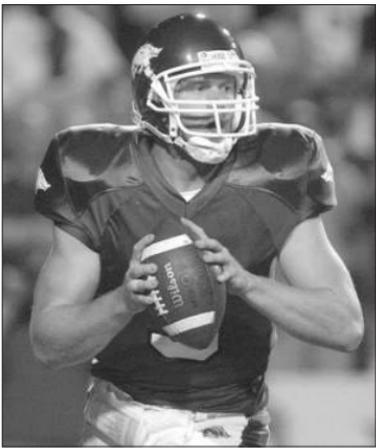
"[The defenses] are giving us some one-on-ones, and we have to take advantage of what they give us," Nutt said.

The Razorbacks (2-1) open conference play Saturday at home against Alabama (3-0, 1-0).

So far, Arkansas has thrown for 892 yards and eight touchdowns. That's even more than traditionally pass-happy Florida.

The Razorbacks are averaging 297 yards per game in the air, up from 189 last season.

In 2003, Arkansas used an experienced and talented offensive line, anchored by All-American tackle Shawn Anderson, and powerful tailback Cedric Cobbs to average 241 yards per game on the ground.



Quarterback Matt Jones is the only returning offensive starter for Arkansas, which entered the weekend ranked first in the SEC in passing.

All those players are gone.

Nutt's strategy to open up the running game this season by throwing more seems to be working, too. Arkansas is averaging

228 yards per game on the ground this year — second best in the SEC behind Alabama with 241.

Senior receiver Steven Harris

said the offense is basically the same, it's just playing to its strengths, he said.

"I think the pass has opened up the run rather than vice-versa," said Harris, who is third in the SEC in receiving yards per game with 10 catches for 218 yards and two touchdowns.

Last season, Ryan Sorahran rotated into the game in many obvious passing situations, sometimes with Jones split wide as a receiver.

Jones took most of the snaps on running downs.

This year's passing game was developed to take advantage of Jones' height (6-foot-6), speed and a throwing arm that Nutt has repeatedly said is underrated. Jones is a dynamic runner, but has never been considered a reliable passer.

Many of Arkansas' passing plays are designed to make defenses stop Jones two ways, with him rolling out and either targeting a receiver or tucking the ball and running.

Jones has 716 yards passing and 185 rushing to lead the SEC in total offense.

"His statistics speak for themselves," Alabama coach Mike Shula said. "He's a playmaker. He's going to be a guy our defense has got to somehow find a way to contain or slow down."

Jones said it doesn't matter to him whether he throws or runs.

"As long as we're winning, the

game's fun for you whether you throw the ball 210 times a game or 10 times a game," he said.

With his long, lanky strides, Jones often looks almost like he's loafing when he drops back into the pocket. Mostly, he relies on deceptive quickness and fancy footwork to dance away from trouble.

Jones said he feels like he's been well-protected by a rebuilt line.

"They're real athletic, and they've done well," he said.

"The coaches have done a good job getting them some schemes to execute."

Last year's two leading receivers — George Wilson and Richard Smith — are gone. But Jones said turnover on the offensive side of the ball also brought some unexpected benefits in the overall receiver corps.

"There's nothing that takes the place of experience," he said. "But as far as taller receivers and faster receivers, we have more depth."

For example, 6-6 freshman Marcus Monk has six catches for 126 yards and three touchdowns. On at least two occasions he has outreached defenders to snatch deep passes out of the air. Junior Carlos Owens has nine catches for 102 yards.

Harris, who had 19 catches for 315 yards and one score last year, is on pace to eclipse that this season.

"There's totally different from what I've experienced before this year," he said.

Southeastern Conference never short on highlights, intrigue

BY CHRIS DUFRESNE

Los Angeles Times

The "Jerry Springer" show is more over-the-top than the Southeastern Conference, but not by much.

It is beyond doubt that the conference is, top to bottom, the nation's best, with five schools ranked 16th or higher in this week's Associated Press poll.

The problem — if you could call it one — is that the SEC takes its football so seriously that minor issues become major and major issues become rip-stories.

This is a league in which member cities are apt to name institutions of learning after coaches instead of U.S. presidents, all though what Tuscaloosa child wouldn't be proud to attend Paul W. Bryant High School?

Hurricane Ivan? It was even of a monster last week to cancel games in the South — California at Southern Mississippi, for example.

But no Category 3 hurricane was going to shut down football in America's Conference. The league issued a release late in the week that stated: "All SEC football games on Saturday to be played as scheduled."

You got that right, brother.

Two weeks after Sept. 11, 2001, the SEC wanted to play ball.

Ray Kramer, the commissioner at the time, said we can't sit around watching television all day every late in the week, under enormous pressure, he reluctantly pulled the plug on all games.

The SEC means well, it really does.

It cared so much it created the bowl championship series.

Mike Slive, the current commissioner, has vowed he will have all schools off NCAA probation — the SEC leads the nation in everything — by 2008.

The standard reply from outsiders: "They'll cure cancer first."

It's always something with the SEC.

■ Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer conducted his SEC media day interview in July via teleconference from Knoxville because he feared being served a subpoena in Alabama as part of a lawsuit related to Fulmer's providing evidence to the NCAA that helped put Alabama on probation.

■ A former Kentucky assistant coach this week filed a \$50-million defamation lawsuit against the NCAA and others because, best we can read it, the NCAA had the gall to ban him for eight years and call him a "liar and a cheat" for his role in a recruiting scandal. The nerve.

■ The SEC this year hired its first black head coach, Sylvester Croom of Mississippi State. Last week, Croom's team lost a home game against I-AA Maine, which played a Division I-A opponent for the first time in more than a decade.

One can only imagine the conversations in Starkville during that night.

■ South Carolina coach Lou Holtz announced he wants to give playing time to 39-year-old receiver Tim "Popo" Frisby if he is ruled eligible by the NCAA Clearing-house.

We thought for sure Holtz would gray-shirt Frisby and bring him back in 2005.

It gets even better in the SEC when they actually play games.

Last week, the conference boasted two

knock-down, flap-out thrillers in Florida at Tennessee and Louisiana State at Auburn.

Tennessee eked out a two-point win on a 50-yard field goal with six seconds left. Florida later learned SEC game officials botched the clock on the final drive and gave Tennessee more time than it deserved.

They'll curse this day in Gainesville and write songs about it in Knoxville. LSU and Auburn were tied 9-9 in the final minutes when Auburn kicker John Vaughn missed what would have been the go-ahead extra point.

Officials, though, called a penalty on LSU defensive back Ronnie Prude, who was trying to block the kick, for falling on the Auburn center.

There's a new rule this year saying you can't do that.

LSU coach Nick Saban serves on the committee that enacted the rule.

Saban voted against it.

Given a second chance, the Auburn kicker erred the extra point and Auburn won 10-9.

So? Auburn is 3-0 under coach Tommy Tuberville, who was so close to getting fired last year that the school president got on a private jet and secretly interviewed Louisville coach Bobby Petrino for a job opening Auburn technically didn't have.

Alabama, meanwhile, has the most horrific 3-0 record in school history because second-year coach Mike Shula let star quarterback Brodie Croyle start the third quarter against I-AA Western Carolina with Alabama comfortably ahead 31-0.

On the drive, Croyle tore knee ligaments and is now sidelined for the season.

Shula knew the injury was bad because "it happened right in front of me."

This had to be followed by Shula's seeing his career flash right in front of his eyes.

This week, the big games are Alabama at Arkansas, Kentucky at Florida and Mississippi State at LSU.

Georgia has a week off.

Frankly, we can all use the rest.

Penalties by number gets mixed review

In another rule change this year, officials are identifying players who commit penalties by number, just like in the pros.

So how is the new rule going over with players and coaches? Opinion is mixed.

"I don't like it at all," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "It's for the wrong reason. It just falls into the category of 'Let's point the finger at somebody so we can cast the blame.'"

UCLA coach Rick Dorrell has a different take, saying, "I don't think it's that big of a deal. If anything, it makes the players think that this is how they do it in the pros."

Verie Sorgen, the Pacific 10's coordinator of football officiating, says the new rule makes referees more accountable for their decisions.

"I hope the official on the field, knowing that he has to get a number, will take that extra split-second of notice to make sure it's a penalty, not just glancing at it and going on to other officiating duties."

UCLA linemaker Spencer Havner wonders what the fuss is about.

"I haven't even noticed it," he said. "You can't hear the refs make calls on the field, so it really hasn't been a big deal to me. But I think that's a good thing."

Mighty: Eckel, Polanco lead Midshipmen's running start

MIGHTY, FROM BACK PAGE

away Tulsa last Saturday 29-0, its first shutout of a Division I-A opponent since 1980. Headly staff, but Johnson isn't overly excited about being unbeaten in September.

"We can still lose eight games," he said.

Johnson came to Navy after an amazing five-year run at Georgia Southern, where he went 62-10 and won two Division I-AA championships. His success at Navy can be attributed to hard work, a solid coaching staff and an uncanny knowledge of the finer points of the triple-option attack.

The triple option is the great equalizer for the Mids because it does not require buying linemen to open holes. It's all about making the defense guess whether the quarterback, tailback or fullback is going to end up with the ball.

"We've got smart guys. They're not dumb. They can look on the



Navy senior quarterback Aaron Polanco (6) has rushed for 309 yards and amassed 591 total yards in three games this season.

other end of the field and see who's bigger," Johnson said. "But they understand how we win. We've got some good athletes and we play hard."

Polanco has done well in Candelero's place, running for 309 yards in three games and throwing for 282 yards on just 16 attempts.

Eckel has flourished too; he ran for three touchdowns against Tulsa and is on course to become only the third Midshipman to amass 3,000 career rushing yards.

"We've been running this offense for a long time," said Johnson, who served as Navy's offensive coordinator in 1995-96, "and a lot of different guys have had success."

The hope is that the run will continue. "As long as coach Johnson is here and the players react to what he's teaching them," Polanco said, "this program will be a winner."

Making a stand by sitting

Dodgers OF Green will miss at least one game to observe the holiest day on the Jewish calendar

Shawn Green is anguishing over the same conflict that confronted Hall of Famers Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg.

The game or the synagogue? A pennant race or prayers?

In Green's case, he's torn about missing two critical games for the Los Angeles Dodgers against the San Francisco Giants on the holiest of the Jewish Holy Days, Yom Kippur, from sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday.

Should he play one game and abstain from the other, seeking a compromise in his commitments to his team and his faith? Should he play both games or attend services, fast and refrain from work in solemn observance of The Day of Atonement?

Will he be criticized one way or another? No doubt, but he has to answer only to himself. "It's a really tough deal," Green said Wednesday night before the Dodgers lost to San Diego 4-0 and saw their NL West lead over San Francisco shrink to a half-game.

"He bounced back fourth and almost trying to do the right thing. It's hard to know what that is. I've really been toying with two different options: Play one of them or not play at all. I will miss at least one game."

To play or not to play on Yom Kippur is a personal decision for a Jewish ballplayer that can have a larger impact. "It strikes a chord with each one of us who has to wonder, 'What do I do in this situation?' Do I go to work? Am I going to observe my faith in a very visible way? Or do I just go with the flow?" said Rabbi David Fine, Pacific Northwest regional director for the Union for Reform Judaism.

Koufax and Greenberg won the everlasting affection of American Jews, and the respect of many non-Jews, by observing Yom Kippur rather than playing in big games — Koufax in the 1955 World Series as pitching ace of the Dodgers, Greenberg in the 1934 pennant race as the slugger for the Detroit Tigers.

"It's not quite a profile in courage, but it's still a courageous stand," said Fine, who grew up in Detroit hearing about Greenberg long after the last of his 331 home runs and his 58 in 1938. "It's when baseball players really become heroes in the eyes of those of us who watch them. It's when they go beyond good players to being real examples and role mod-



With the Los Angeles Dodgers in a tight pennant race, Shawn Green is trying to decide if he will miss one game or two to observe Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Green, who said he will sit out at least one game, entered Thursday hitting .267 with 27 home runs and 81 RBIs.

els.

Koufax attended synagogue in Minnesota instead of pitching in Game 1 of the '65 Series against the Twins. Don Drysdale pitched that day and gave up seven runs in 2 1/2 innings. When manager Walter Alston came out to pull him from the game, Drysdale cracked, "I bet right now you wish I was Jewish, too."

Greenberg wrestled with whether to play on Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. He spoke to his rabbi about it, got a dispensation to play, and hit two homers that day. The Detroit Free Press ran a banner headline, in Hebrew, that read: "Happy New Year, Hank."

On Yom Kippur, the pennant not quite clinched, Greenberg sat.

"Greenberg's decision electrified the American Jewish community, and generations of people remember that with incredible pride," said Martin Abramowitz, who recently helped the Hall of Fame organize "A celebration of Jews in baseball."

The world has changed in 70 years — Green doesn't have to face the same anti-Semitism that Greenberg did. But the issues are the same and it's still a matter of a man examining his principles and conscience.

"Greenberg's choice [was] how to balance loyalty to parents, religion, and tradition with commitment to his American profession and his desire to fully participate in American life," historian Peter Levine wrote.

Sitting out on Yom Kippur made Greenberg a model for second-generation Jews struggling with similar issues as an work.

Green, who sat out on Yom Kippur three years ago and ended a streak of 415 games played, is making an impact even as he considers doing it again in a more cru-

cial situation for his team.

"In some ways it's a contribution not only to the American Jewish community but to America to have the spotlight on someone who is publicly responding to a question of his religious obligation," Abramowitz said. "That in itself is a gift for us all."

Green has 27 homers this season and is the most accomplished of 10 active Jewish players. He was among the 143 ballplayers honored during the Hall of Fame celebration. Another, former Oakland pitcher Ken Holtzman, told of his refusal to dress for a game on Yom Kippur in the 1973 playoffs against Baltimore.

He was surprised when a limousine arrived at his Baltimore hotel on Yom Kippur morning to whisk him to a synagogue, where he was escorted to the front row and welcomed by Orioles owner Jerry Hoffberger.

Holtzman must have found some blessings because he won the next game 2-1 with a three-hit performance over 11 innings.

Ben Blomberg, who won trivia fame by becoming the first designated hitter, was also among the Jewish players celebrated by the Hall. In 1971 at Yankee Stadium against Cleveland, he, too, chose to sit out on Yom Kippur and became known as "the Sundown Kid."

"It was ... nearing sundown at home, the game, two outs in the bottom of the ninth with a man on third base," Blomberg told the Long Island Press. "I'm up. If I don't do it, we go past sundown, and if we go past sundown, I'm going to have to leave. I hit a single to center field and we won the game. From that day on I was idolized by every Jew in the city."

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein@ap.org.

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Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division: New York 91, Boston 69, Tampa Bay 68, Oakland 62

Central Division

Minnesota 64, Chicago 75, Detroit 68, Cleveland 65, Kansas City 67

West Division

Oakland 67, Anaheim 59, Seattle 58

Wednesday's games

Kansas City 7, Tampa Bay 10, Boston 7, Baltimore 6

Thursday's games

Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 1, Minnesota 6, Seattle 7

Friday's games

Kansas City 16, Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Saturday's games

Oakland 4, Anaheim 3, Toronto 10, Minnesota 4

Sunday's games

Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Wild card standings

Boston 85, Anaheim 77

Wednesday

Rangers 5, Athletics 3

Oakland 5, Toronto 3, Detroit 3, Cleveland 3

Thursday's games

Oakland 10, Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Friday's games

Oakland 10, Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Saturday's games

Oakland 10, Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Sunday's games

Oakland 10, Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 9, Boston 7

Wild card standings

Boston 85, Anaheim 77

Red Sox 7, Orioles 6

Baltimore 69, Boston 61, Tampa Bay 61, Detroit 61

Minnesota

Minnesota 64, Chicago 75, Detroit 68, Cleveland 65

Chicago

Chicago 75, Detroit 68, Cleveland 65, Kansas City 67

Royals 7, Devil Rays 6

Kansas City 7, Tampa Bay 10, Boston 7, Baltimore 6

Mariners 16, Angels 6

Seattle 16, Oakland 6, Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9

Giants 5, Astros 1

San Francisco 5, Houston 1, Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9

Arizona

Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

Atlanta

Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1, Miami 1

Philadelphia

Philadelphia 5, Florida 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Florida

Florida 5, Philadelphia 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Milwaukee

Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 1, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Milwaukee

Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Arizona

Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

Atlanta

Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1, Miami 1

Philadelphia

Philadelphia 5, Florida 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Florida

Florida 5, Philadelphia 1, Miami 1, New York 1

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St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

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Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 1

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Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

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Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

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Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

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Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

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Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Arizona

Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

Atlanta

Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1, Miami 1

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Philadelphia 5, Florida 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Florida

Florida 5, Philadelphia 1, Miami 1, New York 1

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Pittsburgh

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Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

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Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Arizona

Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

Atlanta

Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1, Miami 1

Philadelphia

Philadelphia 5, Florida 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Florida

Florida 5, Philadelphia 1, Miami 1, New York 1

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Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 1, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Milwaukee

Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Arizona

Arizona 5, Colorado 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1

Atlanta

Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 1, Florida 1, Miami 1

Philadelphia

Philadelphia 5, Florida 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Florida

Florida 5, Philadelphia 1, Miami 1, New York 1

Milwaukee

Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 1, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

St. Louis

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Milwaukee

Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 1, Pittsburgh 1

Cincinnati

Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 2, Milwaukee 2

Wild card standings

San Francisco 89, Chicago 86, Tampa Bay 82, Oakland 79

Wednesday

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Chicago 1, Pittsburgh 0, St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 1

Padres 4, Dodgers 0

Los Angeles 4, San Diego 0, Arizona 0, Colorado 0

Los Angeles

Los Angeles 4, San Diego 0, Arizona 0, Colorado 0

Los Angeles

Los Angeles 4, San Diego 0, Arizona 0, Colorado 0

Giants move within half-game of Dodgers

San Francisco stays ahead of Chicago in wild-card chase as big weekend looms

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Noah Lowry is fitting in perfectly in the San Francisco Giants' rotation.

The 23-year-old left-hander threw a five-hitter Wednesday night in San Francisco's 5-1 victory over Houston to improve to 6-0 in 13 major league starts, the second-longest career-opening winning streak by a starter in franchise history.

"He has composure and mound presence well beyond his years," said Ray Durham, who helped back Lowry with a two-run double.

San Francisco moved within a half-game of first-place Los Angeles in the NL West and maintained a half-game lead over the Chicago Cubs in the wild-card race. The Giants are 9-1 in their last 10 games, with Lowry winning three times.

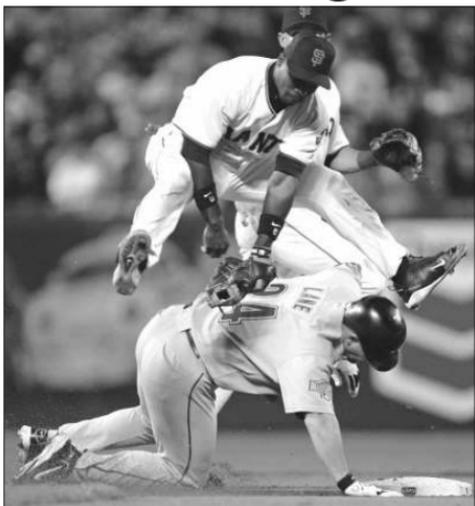
"Right now, the energy in the clubhouse is really high," Lowry said. "We're catching fire and all coming together."

Lowry, a former Pepperdine star who made four relief appearances without earning a decision last year, retired 10 of the first 12 Houston hitters, allowing a second-inning solo homer to Jeff Kent and a single to batter.

"Guys told me that he had some guts, and he showed it," Kent said.

Lowry's 6-0 mark is the best by a Giants starter since Hooks Wiltse set the major league record in 1904 by winning his first 12 career decisions for New York.

Barry Bonds had an RBI triple in the first, but didn't get a chance to swing after that. He was intentionally walked four times — the fourth time he's been issued four free passes in a game this season. The Giants took the lead in the fifth on Pedro



San Francisco second baseman Ray Durham vaults over Houston's Jason Lane while competing a double play during the eighth inning Wednesday night. San Francisco won 5-1.

Feliz's RBI single that scored Durham from second following a stolen base.

Roy Oswalt (18-10) failed to become the NL's first 19-game winner, allowing 10 hits — his most in 11 starts — and five earned runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Cubs 1, Pirates 0: Carlos Zambrano (15-8) outduelled Oliver Perez (10-10) and beat the host Pirates for the fifth straight time this season.

Sammy Sosa preserved the Cubs' sixth shutout with a sprawling, belly-flop catch of Ty Wigington's bases-loaded, two-out line drive to right field in the eighth.

Zambrano is the first pitcher to beat the Pirates five times in a season since the New York Mets' Tom Seaver went 5-1 in 1973.

Phillies 12, Marlins 4: At Miami, Pat Burrell hit a three-run homer and Eric Mil-

ton (14-4) won for the first time in more than a month, leading visiting Philadelphia over Florida.

Mike Lieberthal, Jason Michaels and Placido Polanco added two-run homers in the Phillies' second victory in two nights in Florida after 14 straight losses in Miami.

Logan Kensing (0-3) allowed six runs and four hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Reds 11, Braves 8: At Atlanta, Javier Valentin hit a three-run homer to cap Cincinnati's five-run comeback in the ninth off closer John Smoltz.

Smoltz (0-1) gave up four hits and five runs, walked a batter and threw two wild pitches while recording only one out. It was his fifth blown save in 45 chances this season.

Phil Norton (2-5) recorded one out in the eighth to win it.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2: Larry Walker hit a two-run homer in the fifth, lifting St. Louis over the host Brewers.

Woody Williams (11-7) gave up one run and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings. Jason Iringhaus worked the ninth for his 44th save.

Ben Sheets (11-13) struck out eight and had 25 strikeouts this season, passing Teddy Higuera's franchise record of 240, set in 1987.

Mets 3, Expos 2: Mike Piazza's RBI single in the eighth helped visiting New York end a three-game losing skid and kept the Mets from falling into it for the last place with Montreal in the NL East.

New York moved two games ahead of Montreal for fourth place. The Expos have been in last place since April 15.

Bartolome Fortunato (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory in his first major league decision. Luis Ayala (6-2) won the loser.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2: Shawn Estes outpitched Randy Johnson, and Jeromy Burnitz hit his 37th homer to lift host Colorado over Arizona.

Evan Lincecum (15-7) worked two runs and six hits in seven innings to set the team record for wins in a season by a left-hander.

Johnson (14-14) gave up eight hits in seven innings, but still lowered his ERA to 2.67 by allowing only one earned run. It was the seventh time in this season Johnson has lost after giving up two earned runs or less.

Better late than never as Boston comes back again

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Orlando Cabrera flung off his helmet, stepped on home plate and was mobbed by his teammates after leading the Boston Red Sox to another dramatic victory.

The celebration capped a string 24 hours for Cabrera, who flew all night from Colombia to Boston after leaving the team for two days to be with his ailing wife.

He was back in the starting lineup Wednesday night and homered off Rick Bauer (1-1) in the bottom of the 12th inning to lead the Red Sox to a 7-6 victory over Baltimore.

Boston's second straight victory in its last at-bat. "I slept the whole night on the plane," Cabrera said. "From Bogota to New York, six hours."

Cabrera's wife, Eliana, underwent an undisclosed surgical procedure this week. "I was thinking about taking another week because my wife wanted me to stay another day," he said. "I kept saying, 'I got to go. I got to go.'"

AL Roundup

The shortstop made sure manager Terry Francona knew he was back in Boston — and ready to get back in the lineup.

"Once I landed in Boston, I went to my apartment and called Terry and left a voicemail saying I was here and that I wanted to play."

On Tuesday night, Mark Bellhorn's two-out, two-run single in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Red Sox to a 3-2 victory.

Boston, which leads the AL wild-card race, moved within 3 1/2 games of the first-place New York Yankees in the East. The teams play a three-game series in Boston over the weekend.

Curtis Leskanic (3-5) worked out of a bases-loaded jam with one out in the top of the inning for the victory.

Baltimore loaded the bases with one out against Leskanic, but

the Red Sox turned a 3-2-4 double play on Jay Gibbons' grounder when first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz threw home before Jason Vitek fired to Pakey Reese, covering first.

David Ortiz gave Boston a 6-5 lead with his 40th homer in the seventh, but Rafael Palmeiro had a pinch-hit homer leading off the ninth against Keith Foulke to tie it. It was Palmeiro's 549th homer, moving him into 10th place on the career list ahead of Mike Schmidt.

The Red Sox loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, but Jason Grimsley got Cabrera and Bill Mueller to ground into fielder's choice grounder. "Can't hang your head, not the way (he) played," Baltimore manager Lee Mazzilli said.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4: Vernon Wells hit a go-ahead, two-run triple off Orlando Hernandez in the seventh as Toronto rallied past the host Yankees.

New York built a 3-0 lead on Bernie Williams' two-run homer

in the first and Ruben Sierra's solo shot in the second off Ted Lilly (12-10). Williams' drive gave the Yankees six hitters with 20 or more homers for only the second time in their history, the first since 1961.

Hernandez (8-1) failed to become the first Yankees starter to win his first nine decisions since Tommy John in 1979.

Mariners 16, Angels 6: Raul Ibanez tied an AL record for a nine-inning game with six hits and Ichiro Suzuki had four more singles to pace visiting Seattle's 24-hit outburst.

Suzuki set a team record with nine hits in two games. He has 247 hits and is 10 from tying George Sieler's 84-year-old record of 10 games left.

The Angels remained 2 1/2 games behind Oakland in the AL West, but dropped 6 1/2 games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

Rangers 5, Athletics 3: Kenny Rogers (17-8) matched a career high with his 17th victory and Eric Young hit his first homer in

more than a year, a three-run tie-breaker that moved host Texas within three games of Oakland in the AL West.

White Sox 7, Twins 6: Paul Konerko hit a game-winning RBI single in the ninth for the host White Sox.

Wilson Valdez led off with a single off Joe Roa (2-3) and moved to second on Aaron Rowland's sacrifice. Roa then walked Willie Harris and Konerko followed with a single.

Royals 7, Devil Rays 6 (10): Ruben Gotay hit an RBI groundout in the 10th for visiting Kansas City.

Dave DeJesus homered and drove in three runs for the Royals.

Tampa Bay's Matt Diaz hit his first major league homer.

Indians 7, Tigers 6: Johnny Peralta's two-out homey triple ending Cleveland's five-run surge.

Josh Phelps homered for the Indians, who came back from a 3-0 deficit in night after overcoming a five-run deficit to win.

Hamilton will keep cycling gold medal

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Tyler Hamilton will keep his Olympic cycling gold medal because a backup drug test was inconclusive, the International Olympic Committee said Thursday.

Hamilton tested positive for signs of blood doping in the initial A sample Aug. 26 after his time-trial victory in Athens.

But analysis of the B sample failed to confirm the original finding because of "lack of enough intact red blood cells," the IOC said in a statement.

As a result, the IOC said it dropped its investigation into the case and "would not be pursuing sanctions regarding this matter."

Hamilton's pro team, Phonak, which on Wednesday announced the different blood test results, has threatened to sue Hamilton if he can't prove his innocence, and on Wednesday said it suspended him.

However, Hamilton said on the team's Web site Thursday he is still a member of the team and will continue to take part in its day-to-day decisions.

One of Hamilton's B samples confirms the finding of the A sam-

ple test during the Spanish Vuelta on Sept. 11, which showed evidence of blood from another person, the Phonak team said.

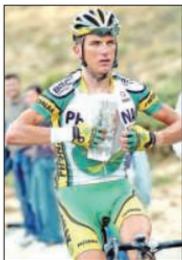
Hamilton said Tuesday he was innocent and denied ever receiving a transfusion, which can boost an athlete's performance by increasing the amount of oxygen-transporting red blood cells. He repeated the denials Thursday. If Hamilton is ultimately found guilty of doping, it would be the first case related to a blood transfusion.

Cycling's governing body had informed cyclists at the start of the season that it planned to start using a new blood-screening machine in the tests that detects blood transfusions, human growth hormone and synthetic hemoglobin. Until now, there has been no foolproof test for detecting blood transfusions.

Phonak plans to investigate the accuracy of the new tests.

"Since the new method is an effort based on probability and interpretation measurements, uncertainties will remain in this examination and procedure in any case," Phonak said.

"The team's goal is, and this is



Olympic time-trial cycling champion Tyler Hamilton of the United States had blood tests come back with different results.

in the exact interest of Tyler Hamilton, that we have clarity in the end," it said. "The team management believes that it can form part of the campaign against blood doping and bring this matter up to a worldwide acceptable level."

Hamilton pulled out midway through the 2004 Tour de France because of a back injury and was fourth in the 2003 Tour.

He also withdrew from the Vuelta on Sept. 16, citing stomach problems. He acknowledged Tuesday he partly did so because of the positive test.

R. Gordon on probation from team

The Associated Press

WELCOME, N.C. — Robby Gordon had been placed on probation by Richard Childress Racing for the remainder of the 2004 NASCAR Nextel Cup season after admitting he intentionally caused an accident last Sunday at New Hampshire that involved championship contenders Tony Stewart and Jeremy Mayfield.

Team owner Childress made the announcement Wednesday, apologizing to fans, media, the teams involved and Cingular Wireless, the sponsor of Gordon's No. 31 Chevrolet, for the situation that occurred during the Sylvania 300.

"If there is one positive," Childress said, "I think you can read Robby understand that there is more to racing than just being aggressive. In this sport today, one action can affect many people's lives on the track and beyond it, as well."

"Many athletes have made mistakes in their careers and would take back the negative things they've said or done if they could."

Gordon was angered 17 laps into Sunday's race when Greg Biffle caused him to spin. After radioing to his crew that he would retaliate, he made good on the threat by intentionally wrecking Biffle later in the race.

Stewart and Mayfield could not avoid the accident, and their cars were severely damaged. Mayfield finished 35th and Stewart 40th, and neither will be able to overcome their resulting point deficits in the final nine races of NASCAR's 10 new-race playoff format.

NASCAR immediately hit Gordon with a two-lap penalty. NASCAR officials later said no further penalty against Gordon was planned.

Gordon made a public apology on Tuesday, admitting he wrecked Biffle while "trying to even the score."

Also Wednesday, RCR said that Ron Hornaday, a two-time NASCAR Craftsman Truck series champion, will not be re-signed for 2005 Busch Series.

"We had two great years with Ron, and I wish him the best in the future," Childress said. "We talked about next season and beyond and felt it was in our best interests to make this announcement now to give him the best chance possible to catch on with another team."

Hornaday has two victories and 28 top 10 finishes in 60 Busch starts for RCR. He finished third in the driver standings in 2003 and currently is eighth.

Third La Salle player charged with rape

PHILADELPHIA — A third La Salle basketball player has been charged with rape in connection with an alleged 2003 sexual encounter with a female player from the school that was reported to college police the time but not to police, officials said.

Dzafko Larkai, 22, a forward

Sports briefs

who attended high school in England, surrendered Wednesday on rape and related charges, said Sgt. Sen McGinn of the Philadelphia Police Department's special victims unit.

Larkai had his ties with the university severed after his arrest, La Salle spokesman Joe Donovan said.

The case — combined with the July arrest of teammates Michael Cleaves and Gary Lee, who allegedly raped a severely intoxicated female basketball camp counselor — led to the resignation this summer of La Salle's men's and women's basketball coaches.

Larkai's alleged victim played on La Salle's women's team, prosecutors have said. She told authorities this year that she had informed both women's coach John Miller and men's coach Billy Hahn about the alleged assault at the time, but at the coaches' urging declined file charges. Hahn and Miller have denied that account, saying they kept quiet to honor her wishes.

NCAA indent transfer penalty

INDIANAPOLIS — NCAA football players could have five seasons of eligibility and would be allowed to transfer once without penalty if a new proposal is approved next year.

The NCAA's Championships/Competitive Cabinet forwarded the measure to the Board of Directors during a two-day meeting that ended Wednesday in Indianapolis. The committee also approved a proposal that would permit Division I-A schools to again add a 12th football game starting in 2006.

Athletes who play football, basketball and hockey are now required to sit out one full year before becoming eligible at their new school. Athletes in other sports are not penalized by sitting out a year, NCAA spokesman Jeff Howard said.

Final votes on the measures cannot occur before April.

Rangers drop appeals, suspend Alton

ARLINGTON, Texas — Texas Rangers relievers Frank Francisco, Doug Brocail and Carlos Almanzar dropped their appeals Wednesday of suspensions that stemmed from their altercation with fans near the Texas bullpen in Oakland last week.

Each suspension was reduced by one game. The Rangers announced at the start of their game against the Athletics.

Francisco threw a plastic chair into the stands near the visitors' bullpen in Oakland that broke the nose of a woman whose husband had been heckling throughout the Sept. 16 game. Francisco started serving his 16-game suspension Saturday, pending an appeal.

Almanzar began serving his four-game suspension Wednesday. Brocail was set to return Sunday, the day Brocail will begin his six-game suspension.

Sixers center MacCulloch retires

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Todd MacCulloch always knew his career would end. He just never expected it to come to such a sudden and mysterious stop.

"I wish this was somewhere down the road," said MacCulloch, who retired Wednesday from 20 problems that sidelined him the last 1½ seasons. "I never envisioned this to happen at this point, but we don't always get to choose those kind of things."

MacCulloch hasn't played since Feb. 2, 2003, because of a disorder believed to be Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a genetic disorder that disrupts his balance and causes problems with his feet.

"I feel like it's still a rollercoaster and there's times when I can't think about anything else and I feel like they're never going to get better," MacCulloch said. "Then they might be quite a bit better and things don't hurt as much."

MacCulloch, 28, had surgery in January on his left foot to free a crushed nerve, leaving him hopeful of a recovery and perhaps a similar procedure on his right foot. Instead, there was no progress.

"This is the day I hoped we'd be talking about 10, 12 years down the road," Sixers President Billy King said.

Medical doctors told MacCulloch his symptoms resembled CMT, they have never come up with a specific diagnosis, leaving the center depressed and confused. Not knowing what's wrong or why it's happening is still hard for MacCulloch to accept.

"I just don't know what they suspect it is, there's not a genetic test that's available for it," he said.

The 7-foot MacCulloch was Philadelphia's second-round pick in 1999. After two seasons with the Sixers, he signed with New Jersey, where he was traded back to Philadelphia in 2002 along with Keith Van Horn in the deal that sent Dikembe Mutombo to the Nets.

He had his best season with the Nets in 2001-02 when they reached the NBA Finals. He averaged 9.7 points and 6.1 rebounds in 62 games.

MacCulloch averaged 6.1 points and four rebounds in 223 career games and two trips to the finals.

Willis, 42, returns to Hawks

ATLANTA — Kevin Willis joined his original NBA team Wednesday after a 10-year absence, look-

NBA briefs

reserve for San Antonio last season and is expected to play behind center Jason Collier this year.

"I think this is a great opportunity as my career covers two decades in the league," Willis said. "To be back with the franchise I started my career with is a wonderful thing, and I hope to do whatever I can to try and bring more excitement and positive energy to the team."

In 11 years with the Hawks, Willis averaged 14.5 points and 10 rebounds. He was the team's first-round pick in 1984 and was an All-Star in the 1991-92 season, when he averaged 18.3 points.

Among active players, only Karl Malone (1,476) has played in more games.

Wizards guard Blake out 10-12 weeks with ankle injury

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards point guard Steve Blake will miss the first month of the season after injuring his ankle in a pickup game.

Blake underwent surgery Wednesday to remove a clipped bone from his right ankle and is expected to miss 10 to 12 weeks, which would rule him out of the first 13 games of the regular season.

"It is an uncommon injury, but we expect Steve to make a full recovery," president of basketball operations Ernie Grunfeld said.

As a rookie last season, Blake played in 75 games, started 14 and averaged 5.9 points and 2.8 assists. He was a second-round draft pick after leaving Maryland as the school's career leader in assists.

Sonics sign Turkish swimmers

SEATTLE — The Seattle SuperSonics signed 30-year-old Turkish guard Ibrahim Kutlay on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-6 Kutlay is expected to help fill the void left by free agent Brent Barry, who signed with San Antonio.

Kutlay, the captain of Turkey's national team, scored 19 and 26 points in exhibition games against the United States leading up to the Athens Olympics.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

There's no 'I' in Nextel Cup

Teammates maintain they work together though only one can be champ

By MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

In an age of multicar teams dominating NASCAR's Nextel Cup series, it isn't surprising that half the field for the new 10-man, 10-race championship playoff features two sets of teammates.

Kurt Busch, Matt Kenseth and Mark Martin drive for Roush Racing, while Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson are with Hendrick Motorsports.

There would seem to be a delicate balance when teammates compete against each other on the racetrack, particularly when it's for a title. How much information do you share? How much help do you offer on or off the track? According to the drivers involved, there's no problem at all.

"We're going to work together six days out of the week and we're going to race on the seventh," said Busch after he and Kenseth finished 1-2 last Sunday in Round One of the playoff at New Hampshire International Speedway. "I definitely think teammates will help."

"We've got three cars in the final chase for the Cup and I think we've done an excellent job as a team balancing the different characters and the different ways of creating a setup for each driver."

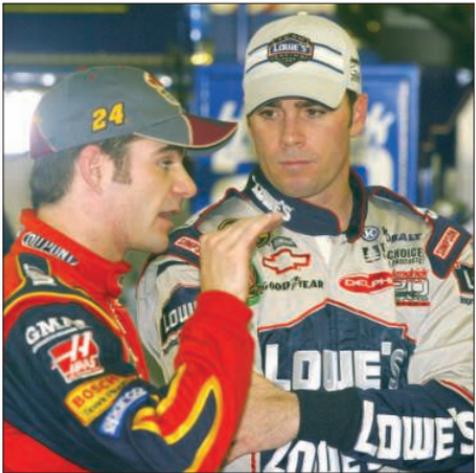
Until the last 10 years or so, it would have been virtually unthinkable for teams and drivers to share information. Racing was a fraternity filled with secrets and would competitors trying to get a leg up on everyone else.

"We never shared nothing if we could help it," said longtime stock car king Richard Petty, who won seven championships and 200 races in a career that ended in 1992. "It was hard enough to stay ahead of the competition for even a little while without telling somebody else what you were doing."

"And nobody really wanted teammates much."

Now, just about everybody has at least one teammate, and it's considered a plus by most.

"There aren't a lot of secrets anymore, anyway," said Chad Knaus, crew chief for Johnson. "The teams all work too close to-



Jeff Gordon, left, is pursuing his fifth Nextel Cup title and Jimmie Johnson, right, his first, but the Hendrick Motorsports teammates are sharing information at every track. "During the week, the guys in the shop sometimes don't even know whose car they are working on," Gordon said. "When we get to the racetrack, it's an open-book policy of information."

gether in the garage, and we stay at the same hotels and eat in the same restaurants and people move from team to team. Information gets around."

Still, how much do you share with your teammate when you're trying to beat them?

"We share all our information at Roush,"

said Kenseth, whose Cup teammates also include Greg Biffle and rookie Carl Edwards.

"We've done that the last few years since, as a company, we had a terrible year in 2001."

Four-time series champion Gordon and Johnson, who has only been in Cup races

for three years, have not faced the struggles the Roush drivers did, but they are equally free with their information sharing.

"Our teams work the way they work and this is really the only way we know to do what we're doing," Gordon added. "When we get to the racetrack, it's an open-book policy of information. We know what every Hendrick car has underneath it."

"When we're on the racetrack, we're competitors. We want one of us to win this championship. But, as far as sharing information as to what the cars are doing, I don't think that's ever going to change because I'm going to help him to confirm what I'm doing and vice versa. It helps both of us out and helps both of our cars go faster."

Going into Round Two of the title showdown, Sunday at Dover, Del., Busch is in a first-place tie with Dale Earnhardt Jr., just ahead of Gordon, Kenseth and Johnson. Behind them are Elliott Sadler, Martin, Tony Stewart, Ryan Newman and Jeremy Mayfield.

Each of them has at least one teammate, though none of the others are involved in the championship. And teammates aren't always a big help.

At New Hampshire, Earnhardt was upset with DEI teammate Michael Waltrip for racing junior hard late in the race when Earnhardt, who finished third, was trying to catch Kenseth.

"I was upset by it," Earnhardt said. "I'm sure Michael didn't mean anything by it. I'm sure he was just trying to race and do what you do. I needed a little help there and I expected to get a little and I didn't get any."

When that situation was mentioned to team owner Jack Roush, he replied that he hopes there will be nothing like that going on among his drivers, whom he expects to race each other — and everyone else — hard and clean.

"There's no expectation that anybody wins or that anybody would pull over for anybody else," Roush said. "I just hope that none of the guys take one another out."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 28: MBNA America 400, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Kurt Busch began the 10-race championship showdown by winning the Sylva 300 at Loudon, N.H., Busch swept both 400 events at New Hampshire and moved into a tie with Dale

Earnhardt Jr. for the series points lead.

Next year: Ryan Newman overcame a flat tire that cost him two laps, then gambled on fuel and completed a sweep of the races at Dover with a win in the MBNA America 400.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Mark Martin has a mental fixer-upper to work in to get his in the Nextel Cup title 10-driver showdown after finishing second, but does have four times, his last career Cup victories at the Dover MBNA Cup races on June 6.

Ryan Newman man struggled to qualify for the Chase last week after getting lapped up in Ribby and out, but over Gordon's in his last changes. He has won two Cup races in the MBNA Cup race on June 6.

Tony Stewart Chase last week after getting lapped up in Ribby and out, but over Gordon's in his last changes. He has won two Cup races in the MBNA Cup race on June 6.

Greg Biffle, Tony Stewart, Ryan Newman and Jeremy Mayfield use a victory.

FAST FACTS
Jamie McMurray has five straight top-10 finishes and 16 this season... Tony Stewart and Jeremy Mayfield were both knocked out of last week's accident caused by Robby Gordon. Stewart dropped from fourth to eighth in the standings and Mayfield fell to 10th... Jimmie Johnson swept both races at the track in 2002 before Newman did it last year.

Nextel Cup qualifying record
Jeremy Mayfield, 161.521 mph, 2004.

Nextel Cup race record
Mark Martin, 132.719 mph, Sept. 21, 1997.

BUSCH SERIES

POINTS RACE
This week: Stacker 200 at Dover, Del. (Type-divided, 1 a.m. CET Sunday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Robby Gordon won from third to first in a three-car battle with 15 laps to go and held to win the Emerson 200 at Richmond, Va. on Oct. 4.

Next year: Teenager Brian Vickers took the lead in the Busch standings after winning the Stacker 200.

Next race: Mr. Goodcents 300, Oct. 9, Kansas City, Kan.

INDY RACING

Last race: Adrian Fernandez won his second race in a month by taking the victory in the 100-mile race at the Delphi Indy 300 in Joliet, Ill. The race featured a scary crash by 191 number winner Buddy Rice, who walked away unscathed despite his car skidding upside down along the track.

Next race: Toyota Indy 400, Oct. 3, Fontana, Calif.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Chris Green's Grand Prix at Shanghai.

Next year: Rubens Barrichello overcame an early pit stop and won the Italian Grand Prix, the most prestigious finished ahead of series champion Michael Schumacher in a 1.2 showing by Ferrari on his home track.

Next race: Japanese Grand Prix, Oct. 10, Suzuka.

ended by the 10th caution and darkness.

Last year: Brendan Gaughan picked up his fifth victory of 2003 by winning the Las Vegas 500, becoming the ninth driver to win the series. He won at least that many in a season.

Next race: American Racing Wheels 200, Oct. 2, Fontana, Calif.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Bridgestone 400 at Las Vegas (Type-divided, 6 a.m. CET Sunday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Patrick Carpentier won the Grand Prix of Monterey for the second year in a row, moving Sebastian Bourdais with three races remaining.

Last year: Inaugural race.

Next race: Oct. 5, South Korea.

FORMULA ONE

This week: Chinese Grand Prix at Shanghai.

Next year: Rubens Barrichello overcame an early pit stop and won the Italian Grand Prix, the most prestigious finished ahead of series champion Michael Schumacher in a 1.2 showing by Ferrari on his home track.

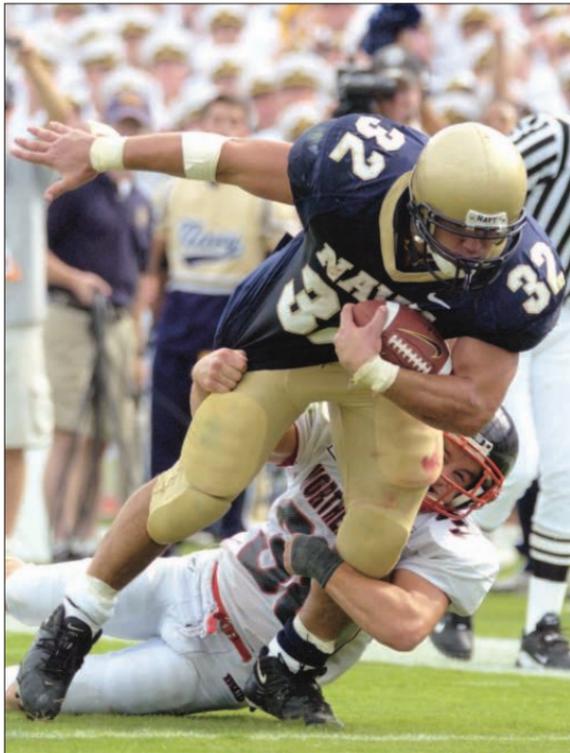
Next race: Japanese Grand Prix, Oct. 10, Suzuka.

SPORTS



QB Roethlisberger seeks to stop a trend in his first start for the Steelers, Page 28

From pushover to mighty mite



Fullback Kyle Eckel (32), the workhorse of Navy's triple-option offense, is on pace to become only the third Midshipman to rush for 3,000 career yards. He has helped power Navy to its first 3-0 record since 1979.

After years of losing, Johnson has Navy bowling people over

BY DAVID GENSBURG
The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — With a 3-0 record for the first time in 25 years, Navy has proved it's possible to win without a 300-pound lineman or an athlete whose sole purpose for attending college is to hone his skills for the NFL.

"We're not the biggest guys, but we play with a lot of heart," quarterback Adam Polanco said. "Coach stresses that for us to win, we have to be in better shape and play harder than the other team."

When Paul Johnson accepted the daunting job as Navy's football coach in December 2001, the Midshipmen had enjoyed two winning seasons in 19 years. Johnson knew he couldn't alter the academy's stringent entrance requirements or arduous military obligations, so he set out to change the one thing he could control: the sense of doom that shrouded the once-proud program.

"I think the hardest thing was getting the attitude and work ethic changed," Johnson said this week. "But I think we've got the work ethic back. These guys work pretty hard. Like I tell them, the more you invest, the harder it is to lay down."

Their diligence has paid off. Navy went 8-5 last year and played in the Houston Bowl. Suddenly, tailgating and the pregame fly-by isn't the only attraction at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on autumn Saturday afternoons.

"The school, the town, everyone's into it now," senior fullback Kyle Eckel said. "The atmosphere is better when you win.

Last year we picked up a lot of fans, and now the ball's rolling. It's catching on."

Johnson took over a team that went 1-10 in 2000 and 0-10 in 2001. Navy won its first game in 2002, then dropped 10 straight before beating Army in the finale.

"That first season was the longest year of my life," Johnson recalled. "I felt like we were getting better; we just weren't winning any games. Certainly it's nice that all the hard work has paid off for everybody."

Said Polanco: "It's great to get some recognition. It helps recruiting, helps the program. It's a lot better feeling than the seniors had here their first year. Those were rough years."

The resurgence began in earnest last season, when Navy beat Air Force and Army to win the Commander in Chief's Trophy for the first time since 1981. Led by senior quarterback Craig Candeto, who ran for 1,112 yards and 16 touchdowns, the Midshipmen rolled to their first winning season since 1997.

But could it last? That was the challenge facing Johnson and the Mids this year, and at this point it appears the answer is a resounding, "Yes, Sir!"

"Last year we were fighting to win, fighting for respect, and we got some," Eckel said. "But coming into this season, people were saying, 'Craig's gone, it was a fluke' — things like that. You can't blame them after so many losing seasons. But we've worked hard to keep that respect, and now we're 3-0."

After rolling past Duke and Northeastern at home, Navy blew

SEE MIGHTY ON PAGE 31

Rank and file

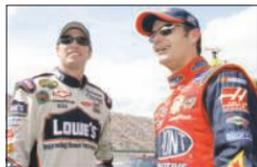
Paul Johnson took over as Navy's football coach in December 2001. The following is Navy's year-by-year record for the past nine seasons:

2003	.....	8-5
2002	.....	2-10
2001	.....	0-10
2000	.....	1-10
1999	.....	5-7
1998	.....	3-8
1997	.....	3-4
1996	.....	9-3
1995	.....	5-6



San Francisco continues its ascent in NL West; late heroics help Red Sox pick up a game on the Yanks

Page 33



Teammates stay loyal in race for Nextel Cup Page 35



Southern Fried Football: SEC has become the home of drama and controversy

Page 30

